4357

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. March 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART III.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

IN THE

ASIATIC PROVINCES OF TURKEY.

(In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 4307.)

107

July to December 1880.

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July to December 1880.

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. March 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Administrative Reforms in the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey.

PART III.

(In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 4307.)

No. 1.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, July* 13.)

(No. 18. Political. Confidential.)

Erzeroum, June 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE been most urgently requested by some influential members of the Greek community to bring confidentially to the notice of Her Majesty's Government the miserable condition of the Greeks in the district of Ghumush Khana.

It appears that for some time past they have been oppressed to a degree beyond endurance. The appeals made through the Bishop here to the authorities being only read and thrown aside, some of the people represented their condition to the Russian Consul, who is their authorized protector.

He having assured them that the only method of escape is by emigration into Russia they commenced their preparations, being secretly promised by the Russian Government both money to defray the expenses of the journey and land on their arrival.

The people are only too glad to avail themselves of any opportunity of escape from their present misery, but the more educated portion of the community and the ecclesiastics are in despair at this determination, and are doing all in their power to change it by exhorting them to patience.

I have conversed with the Greek Bishop on this subject, and, with tears in his eyes, he begged me to do what I could for them. He at the same time placed in my hands a number of petitions setting forth their great sufferings, of one of which I send you a translation as a sample. There is no exaggeration in this statement, every crime therein mentioned having been verified.

Some of the leading members of the community have expressed a desire that the English Consul should look after their interests, in order that their sufferings may be properly represented; for they affirm that the only answer given to the people by the Russian Consul is, "Why don't you emigrate to Russia?"

The people would prefer remaining where they are, provided they could live in security, and next to this they would wish to remove to Greece if their expenses by sea were defrayed, and a grant of land assured them on their arrival.

If Greece wishes to secure these few thousand subjects, I should suggest her adopting this course without loss of time, for suffering as they are, they certainly will not be able to resist the temptation held out by Russia beyond another two or three

months. They form a most industrious and intelligent community, and it would well repay their Government to transfer them to the mother country.

I may mention that the emigration of all Christians into Russia is at this moment being greatly encouraged by the Turkish authorities, and facilitated by those of Russia, who are admitting them into the country without passports, and giving them rations on their arrival.

On the other hand, an extensive emigration of Moslems is taking place from Russia westward, large numbers of whom pass through this city every day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 2.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July .)

(No. 19. Political. Confidential.)

Erzeroum, June 25, 1880.

Sir,

IN accordance with the intention expressed in my despatch No. 16, Political, of the 21st May last, I purpose to make a few observations of a strictly confidential nature with regard to the feelings entertained here by the people on the Armenian question.

For convenience the Christian population may be divided into three classes:—

Firstly, there is the uneducated peasant who longs for freedom, yet does not make any show of resistance, having, according to the received idea, become cowed from continued oppression. A more cogent reason for this apparent cowardice is, perhaps, the fact that he is not allowed to carry arms, and is, therefore, perfectly helpless against his well-armed and numerous oppressors; while a still better one may be that he is acting according to orders. With a conviction, becoming every day more deeply rooted, that a day of liberty is approaching, he remains, for the present, under the control of the village priest, and also, so I am given to understand, under that of headmen and men of influence appointed by the Committee of Erzeroum, acting under the orders of the Central Committee of Constantinople. To these orders he is fairly disciplined and is daily becoming more so, and until the *mot d'ordre* is given for more energetic action he will doubtless confine himself to representing his sufferings to the Bishops and Consuls.

Secondly, there is the class of people formed by the Catholic Armenians and those Christians who, holding Government appointments, make more or less profit from them. These people deprecate the lot of the Christians, but not with great sincerity. The former, it is true, express a wish for reform, but are fearful of any which might be of so radical a character as to throw the power into the hands of their Gregorian brethren, while the latter dread as much as their Moslem neighbours any change which, causing a reform in the administration, might interfere with their profits. Neither of them therefore take any active interest or would lend a hand in furthering the freedom of the nation.

But the third class, which consists of the more educated Gregorian Armenians, either men of family and influence long resident in the country, or else men of talent and energy imported from Constantinople, are of a very different character. From motives either of patriotism or ambition, they have the firm intention to deliver their countrymen from their oppressors, and will go any lengths to accomplish it. They are in constant communication with the Committee at Constantinople, from whom they receive their orders, which are passed on to the Sub-Committees in the districts. Being also the men by whom the first class mentioned above are guided like sheep, their ideas represent those of the country, and it is to them we must turn if we would learn what is going on.

It may be taken for granted that the Armenians do not intend to remain much longer in their present position. The extreme limit has been always given me as two years, and is independent of the action of the European Powers. It, in fact, represents the time during which they will continue to bear their oppressions, because they believe it will take them as long to prepare for the effort which shall free them from the Turkish yoke, but, on the other hand, there is always a chance that matters may be precipitated.

As to the extent of freedom desired, whatever may be the outward expression, I am quite sure that the real aim is autonomy, and that nothing short of it will cause

contentment. Hence it is that England is not much relied on, for the Armenians believe that Her Majesty's Government does not favour the idea, and, moreover, does not consider them fit to govern themselves.

According to the Armenian notion as expressed here, and in this expression may probably be traced the reflection of the feelings of the Council at Constantinople, this disfavour by England of the erection of an autonomous State guaranteed by the Powers is considered an error, because, they say, as things are at present there is no security for English trade, nor can there be so long as the Government remains in the hands of the Turks, while, if a new State were erected, not only would the trade be restored, but greatly increased. Nor do they agree that they cannot legislate for themselves. To this remark answer is always made that there are some 400 or 500 men in Constantinople able and willing to come out and devote themselves entirely to the interests of the country.

It must not therefore be supposed that the Armenians are patiently awaiting the decision of Her Majesty's Government, or, indeed, of any other, as to their future fate. They hope greatly that the Powers may be brought to see that autonomy is the only method by which they can be relieved from their oppressions, and they would gladly escape, if it were possible, from the contemplated struggle; but, appreciating the difficulties in the way, they do not believe in the likelihood of such a thing, and placing very little faith in the half measures likely to result from International Commissions, they continue to make, in silence, preparations for the action they have in view.

With regard to the preparations, as you are already aware, there is a movement on foot to better the education of the people, and since there are not a sufficient number of educated men in this country for the purpose instructors will be, and are being, imported from Constantinople. I am quite sure that in each of these instructors, as, indeed, in every Armenian importation from Constantinople for any purpose whatever, we see a political agent of the Central Committee. For the education of the people is a long process requiring many years for its development, but, as I have mentioned above, the Armenians have no intention of waiting many years before they make an effort for their freedom. Their object, therefore, is to introduce trustworthy and efficient agents into the country who may propagate the necessary ideas, instil a stronger feeling of patriotism, a better discipline to the Armenian authorities, the necessity of present patience and of united and simultaneous action at the appointed time. The plea of education offers an excellent method of doing this without attracting the attention of the authorities, while it precludes the possibility of interference.

2. There is the importation of arms, which will be secreted until required; and,

3. The formation of alliances with powerful Kurdish Chiefs who, longing also to throw off the Turkish yoke, will gladly join in the movement.

The forwarding of Agents is being actively proceeded with; one or two have arrived here, and others are coming this year. I can tell you nothing about the importation of arms. I am told that already they might be found in the house of every Armenian, but I can give no opinion on this subject. For a long time I discredited altogether the idea of a Kurdo-Armenian alliance. It seemed to me preposterous that there should be any harmony between two races apparently so antagonistic, but it appears that negotiations, under the pretext of trade, are at this moment being carried on with the Dersim Kurds, and also with a powerful Chief in the neighbourhood of Mush, who, I take it, can be no other than Mirza Bey; while, for more than a month past, relations have been entered into with Sheikh Obeydullah. This latter piece of information seems to a certain extent confirmed by Captain Clayton's despatch No. 20, Political, of the 25th May, copies of which were forwarded by me last week to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. I am also informed that some Kurdish tribes of Armenian origin are not only ready to assist in any enterprise, but wish to embrace the Christian faith.

Such being the preparations, I will pass on to a consideration of the object.

Naturally, perhaps the Armenians are not very well contented with the results achieved hitherto in the way of reform, for instead of finding themselves in any better condition, they are, in fact, a shade worse off. Hope of redress led to the airing of many complaints which certainly never would have been brought to the surface if the ill-success of the business could have been foreseen by the complainants, since now their triumphant and revengeful oppressors make them suffer doubly for their presumption and temerity.

The change of Ministry in England produced, indeed, a momentary belief that

a season for more energetic action had arrived, but it is giving way to the opinion that considerable time will elapse before the Armenian question is brought to the fore, and that even then no coercive measures are likely to be adopted. Nevertheless, as some time must necessarily elapse before their organization is completed, they can afford to wait and see what Europe may be inclined to do for them. Should nothing practical be accomplished, they will then provoke such a disturbance as will force one or more of the Powers to interfere.

In these calculations, the chance of falling into the hands of Russia is not forgotten. In the event of a disturbance, they admit that exterior aid from somewhere will be necessary, and Russia being handiest, and possibly the most willing, it is pretty well considered as part of this programme, which, of course, constitutes the *ultima ratio*, to call in Russia, even at the risk of not getting rid of her again; for, they argue, that even as Russian subjects, at all events their lives and property will be secure, and they point as examples to many of their brethren over the frontier who are prospering, nay, even have become rich under Russian rule.

Even in this case, too, autonomy, though undoubtedly deferred, is not considered hopeless. For they believe in the possibility of such changes in the system of government in Russia as may ultimately produce the desired effect, and perhaps unite to the State Caucasian Armenia into the bargain.

If then the state of feeling in the country at the present moment, the aspirations of the Gregorian Armenians, who constitute the bulk of the nation, and the methods they are employing to obtain them, be taken into consideration, it would seem that the Armenians are not an unimportant factor in the settlement of the question. We have been hitherto accustomed to consider them as a cowed and cringing race, who will bear any oppression or insult without resenting it, and whose only chance of freedom lies in the benevolence of the European Powers, who, on their part, may defer to a convenient and remote period the adjustment of their grievances. And certainly if the outward behaviour of the Armenian is only considered, the assertion is fully borne out. But I believe the idea to be erroneous. The Chiefs here and in Constantinople are well aware that isolated resistance is perfectly futile, and that if any demonstration is to be made at all it must be a general and simultaneous rising, assisted by certain allies to be found on the spot, and backed by an European Power. For this they are gradually preparing, and, as I have said above, in two years profess that they will be ready. It should not, however, be forgotten that their position may become so insufferable as to cause a resolution to be passed to act with the means at the time available, and I have been told that if necessary two months only would be required to lay the charge that shall explode the mine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 3.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 240.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE copy of a letter which I have received from the Treasurer of Lady Strangford's fund,* communicating a report that great part of this year's crops in Kurdistan and Armenia will be seized by the Turkish officials in payment of arrears of taxes.

I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to ascertain whether this report is true.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 4.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 243.) *Foreign Office, July* 15, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE printed copies of the Porte's reply to that part of the identic note which related to Armenia, giving an account of the reforms which the Turkish

* Mr. Henriques, July 9.

Government propose to introduce in the northern districts of Asia Minor, and I have to request that you will send a copy of Abédine Pasha's note to Colonel Wilson and to each of Her Majesty's Consuls in Anatolia, with an instruction to submit their observations upon it with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 5.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 18, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 128.) *Constantinople, July* 18, 1880, 1 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 259.

I have heard nothing of the reported intention of the Turkish authorities to seize part of the harvest in Kurdistan. I am making inquiries on the subject.

No. 6.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 126.) *Therapia, July* 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatches No. 86 of the 17th ultimo and No. 125 of the 24th ultimo, relating to the emigration from the Vilayet of Trebizond (as reported by Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond in several despatches forwarded to your Lordship), and requesting me to call the attention of the Porte to the injury resulting from this state of misgovernment. I have had further reports on the same subject, and they have not failed to receive my urgent attention. But I do not conceive that much advantage is derived at the present moment by isolated notes to the Porte founded on any particular facts showing misgovernment, unless there is some gross and palpable act of oppression calling for immediate redress. The present Government admit the misgovernment to the full, and many members of the present Ministry have spoken to me in the strongest terms of reprobation as to the present state of things, not wishing at all to minimize the facts. I have constantly in conversation with all the Ministers spoken of anarchy and chaos prevailing in almost all parts of the Asiatic provinces, as well as in European Turkey, and my main object now is to push them to act. To official notes they give general denials, but it is clear that it is not knowledge of what is going on in which they are lacking, but in their power of dealing with it. Energetic measures seem beyond their capacity, even if there is the desire to act, and I fear no remonstrances will be of avail to produce real improvement in particular districts till the whole provincial administration is changed. It is to this latter end that I am now directing all my energies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 7.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 134.) *Therapia, July* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an interesting Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral on the "havallé," or system of Exchequer drafts on provincial Treasuries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 77.) *Angora, July* 3, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to call your Excellency's attention to the following facts and details regarding what is known as "havallé," or the system of Exchequer drafts on provincial Treasuries, the evils in connection with which are very numerous and, I must add, constantly increasing.

These "havallé" may be divided into the three following classes:—

1. Privileged;
2. Commercial; and
3. Private or special.

1. Privileged "havallé" are those granted by the Imperial Government as security against a ready money advance to banking corporations or individuals, such as the Imperial Ottoman Bank, La Société Générale, M. Zarifi, Shishmanoglou Yovan Effendi, &c. The whole or a portion of a special branch of revenue is assigned to these parties, the receipts to be collected and handed over to the authorized agents. The sheep and goat tax or tithe of grain tax are usually selected for this purpose as being the most remunerative and the easiest to encash; the value of the first-named, for the Angora Province, being from £ T. 80,000 to £ T. 100,000, and of the second, £ T. 150,000 to £ T. 200,000 per annum. The greatest evil in connection with this class of "havallé" is the scandalous interference of the Central Government with the encashment. The contracts are always very rigidly drawn, the Exchequer assigning a preferential claim on such revenues to the privileged holders, and strict orders are given to the authorities, on pain of instant dismissal, that the encashment is on no account to be tampered with; but hardly has that encashment begun, ere payments are suspended by order of the Malliah and the receipts remitted direct to Constantinople. As an instance, a "havallé" on this year's sheep and goat tax for £ T. 55,000, collected here on behalf of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, has had its encashment suspended three times in as many months, and has been at last cut down to £ T. 33,000, other future revenues being pledged for the balance. The example thus set by the Central authorities is of course copied by the local officials, and further encroachments are constantly made, with the result that the Bank's agent has only received £ T. 25,000, whilst the authorities have received or expended upwards of £ T. 50,000. These uncollected arrears accumulate year by year, and become "actions," as they are called in French, an always increasing proportion being deducted from every fresh advance, and as they carry heavy interest (10 to 12 per cent.), the ruinous nature of such finance is self-evident. It is, moreover, a question whether these Galata bankers realize effectively the profits which nominally and on account they appear to do, as their expenses of collection are necessarily excessive.

2. Commercial "havallé" are those granted to merchants, contractors, purveyors, &c., who supply the Palace and Government Departments with imported articles or native products. As the holders of these have rarely provincial agents, such orders are generally disposed of on the Constantinople Stock Exchange. They are at present subject to a discount of 35 to 40 per cent. They are bought by a class of speculators who deal regularly in such things, and knowing, as they do, how both to give and take, they generally gain. These "havallé," when accepted by the local Treasury, are either paid in Angora with more or less promptitude, or, as generally happens, are exchanged for fresh "havallé" bonds on the various sandjaks and districts into which the province is divided. The results of this system are deplorable in every way, as it reduces the provincial accounts to a condition simply chaotic, and has been carried to such a pitch that a larger amount is drawn for than the revenue supplies, and no margin is left for the current expenses of government, which are increased in obedience to orders from the Porte on one hand, whilst, on the other, the available revenue is reduced in the way indicated. The branch of revenue on which this class of "havallé" [?] is called "emval," and is made up of capitation tax, income tax, and military service exemption tax. Its nominal amount is £ T. 130,000, but it rarely realizes more than £ T. 110,000 effective. Last year more than £ T. 200,000 "havallé" was drawn on it, but only about £ T. 80,000 of this amount was paid; a few favoured "havallé" were paid in full, the others receiving nothing. The unpaid balance goes back to Constantinople, where it is repurchased by the Galata bankers at 70 to 80 per cent. discount, and are held over as "actions" till a fresh advance to

the Treasury is being made. The terms on which favoured holders are paid are perfectly well known. The present Vali, Khourshood Pasha, insists on 5 per cent. as his share, half the "commission," as it is called, has to be paid in advance to his "Mohardar," or Seal-bearer, who is charged with conducting these somewhat delicate negotiations. The "Defterdar," or Finance Controller, cannot be expected to accept less than the Vali, as all orders for payment have to be countersigned by him. When orders for outside collection are conceded, Mutessarifs, Kaïmakams, and Mudirs are all clamorous for their share, which generally absorbs 5 per cent. more, so that expenses of collecting commercial "havallé" amounts to from 15 to 20 per cent., still leaving a fairly remunerative profit to those who choose to engage in such questionable traffic.

3. Private or special "havallé." These are orders on the Exchequer for the payment of official salaries. The holders of these orders (Constantinople officials), unable to get them encashed, sell them on the open market. They are purchasable to-day at 55 per cent. discount. The collection and encashment of these is somewhat more expensive than the other, as officials here demand a still larger "commission" on them, except, indeed, when the holders are officials themselves, which sometimes occurs, when they are encashed without deduction for "hatir," as it is called in Turkish, "goodwill" being the nearest English equivalent.

The cure for such financial evils seems to me to be twofold:—

1. Decentralization; liberating provincial finance to some extent from the malign influence of the Malliah, and substituting for it the more regular, because organized, action of a State Bank.

2. The appointment of European Controllers and Inspectors of Revenue. The mere presence of such officials would, I am firmly convinced, check a great amount of the maladministration that goes on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 8.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 137.) *Therapia, July* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Hanley, the editor of the local newspaper "Stamboul," with respect to an order which it is alleged has been issued to the telegraph stations at Van, Diarbekir, and Erzeroum, forbidding the despatch of telegrams from those districts where famine prevails.

I have spoken to Abédine Pasha on the subject, who promised that he would at once make inquiries into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Mr. Hanley to Mr. Goschen.

(Private.) *Constantinople, July* 4, 1880.

Excellency,

WE received three days ago a letter from a person who is in a position to be acquainted with the fact, and in whom we have every confidence, to the effect that Izzet Effendi had given an order to the chiefs of the telegraphic stations of Van, Diarbekir, and Erzeroum not to transmit any despatches relative to the famine. On reflection, and considering the antecedents of Izzet Effendi, we thought it would be better instead of publishing this news to put him in the position of contradicting or confirming it, and therefore addressed him the following letter:—

"A son Excellence Izzet Effendi, Directeur-Général des Postes et Télégraphes.

Le 2 Juillet, 1880.

"M. le Directeur-Général,

"Une personne que nous devons considérer comme très-digne de foi nous déclare qu'une circulaire adressée par votre Excellence à Van, Erzéroum, et Diarbékir donne

aux chefs des stations télégraphiques de ces villes l'ordre de refuser les dépêches donnant des nouvelles de la famine.

"Cette interdiction nous a semblé si étrange, si invraisemblable, qu'avant d'en parler dans les colonnes de notre journal nous avons tenu à nous informer auprès de votre Excellence de ce qu'elle pourrait avoir de vrai.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) "J. LAFFAN HANLEY."

Izzet Effendi sent a message that we should have an answer the following day. As we anticipated, instead of a written answer he sent his Secretary, Guildany Effendi, who saw our principal editor, and endeavoured in a sort of unauthorized way to induce him to put in a statement which seemed to us to be of so unsatisfactory a character that we declined to give publicity to it; the more so as in the interval we had learnt that a letter had been received by Mgr. Narses, the Armenian Patriarch, from Mgr. Kreminian, Archbishop of Van, complaining that his recent despatches had all been burked, and that the Patriarch was engaged in preparing a "takrir," or official letter, to the Porte, remonstrating against that procedure. We are promised an official communication from the Patriarchate to that effect, and on receiving it shall consider what use we shall make of it.

The nature of the paragraph which Guildany Effendi wished to impose upon us may be judged from the following paragraph in the "Somaphore" yesterday which comes from the same source:—

"Le Directeur-Général des Postes et Télégraphes, Izzet Effendi, nous fait savoir que les dépêches échangées entre la capitale et les villes de Van, Bitlis, Erzéroum, et Diarbékir, au sujet de la famine, sont toujours exemptes de taxe, et qu'il vient de recommander la plus prompte expédition de ces télégrammes. Aucune instruction n'a jamais été donnée en sens contraire."

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. H. HANLEY.

No. 9.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 139.) *Therapia, July* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 162 of the 30th ultimo, instructing me to call the attention of Abédine Pasha to the proceedings of Mehemet Ali of Siwas, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that before I received this despatch I had spoken both to the Prime Minister and to Abédine Pasha about this Mehemet Ali. Abédine Pasha is perfectly acquainted with the evil influence he exercises, but it appeared to me that his Excellency was not clear as to the manner in which the case can now be dealt with, as the elections have taken place.

I spoke to his Excellency on the subject again yesterday, and pressed him very strongly, but he replied that, while it was true that the influence of Mehemet Ali was bad, and though it was also true that he himself, when Governor-General of Siwas, had kept him at arm's length, and by his personal treatment of him had endeavoured to weaken that influence, that nevertheless there were no crimes proved against the man on which the Government could act. He had been himself criticized rather strongly even by General Baker for having arrested 105 Kurdish Beys on general grounds without proof, but that, if any special acts of oppression could be traced to Mehemet Ali, he would act at once. I shall communicate with Captain Stewart and with Colonel Wilson to procure details on which action may be taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 10.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 140. Very Confidential.) *Therapia, July* 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch No. 160, conveying explanations and instructions relating to the attitude of Her Majesty's Government towards the Cyprus Convention, in continuation of your Lordship's despatch No. 71, Very Confidential.

In accordance with your Lordship's wishes, I have not taken the initiative in making any suggestions to the Sublime Porte on this question, but I have waited for an opportunity which observations on the part of the Turkish Ministers might offer me to ascertain their views on the subject.

Yesterday, in the course of a conversation with Abédine Pasha, the subject came up, but in a very incidental manner. We were discussing the change to be made in the ratification of the Slave Trade Convention (on which your Lordship sent me instructions in despatch No. 24, Slave Trade, of the 30th June), and I quoted the Cyprus Convention as a precedent where an English as well as a French text had been inserted in both copies of the ratifications. Abédine Pasha made a somewhat singular reply. He said that "there was a special character about the Cyprus Convention. It partook less of the nature of a mutual agreement than of a cession by one party to another, and consequently it was not unnatural that the language of the party in whose favour the cession was made had been chosen." I immediately asked, "Which party, then, do you think gained most by the Convention? To whose advantage did it redound?" His Excellency answered, after begging me to forgive him in advance for what he was about to say, that his own feelings on the subject had undergone an alteration since the change of Ministry in England. At first, when the Convention was made, he had rejoiced greatly on behalf of his country. He had considered that the guarantee of the remaining Asiatic dominions of Turkey by a Power like England compensated, in a very large measure, the losses of territory they had incurred on that Continent. But that, since the change of Government, and since he had read speeches which had been made on the subject, he had doubted whether Turkey had gained the advantage.

I said, "You have now begun to realize that the guarantee is conditional; and that two years have elapsed without Turkey fulfilling her part of the bargain?" He replied, "Surely England will bear our difficulties in mind. It could not have made this bargain for reforms with the intention of exacting reforms in a European sense—reforms beyond our feeble powers, and incompatible with the state of civilization in Asia." On which I answered that there were no improvements whatever in the government of Asia Minor; that the populations had derived none of the benefits which had been promised them, and that no part of the conditions on which our guarantee depended had been fulfilled.

His Excellency did not follow the matter up any further, and the conversation reverted to the subject which we had been discussing before.

I did not think it advisable to enter on any fuller discussion at the moment, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs did not convey the impression to my mind that he had given much serious consideration to the question, and I thought it best that he should report to his colleagues in the first instance what had passed between us on this occasion.

Abédine Pasha did not seem to be aware of the view entertained by Musurus Pasha and other Turkish authorities that the guarantee of the territories is dearly bought by the special powers given in consequence to our Consuls in Asia, nor does he personally entertain objections to the Consuls. On the contrary, when, at another part of our conversation, I inveighed against the inactivity shown in Asia Minor, and against the utter absence of men qualified to deal with existing evils and abuses, also alluding to Baker Pasha's having no executive powers, his Excellency volunteered the view that he wished he could utilize the services of Colonel Wilson, the Consul-General in Anatolia, and give him the fullest powers for immediate and energetic action. It is a misfortune in some respects that Abédine Pasha does not, in these internal matters, represent the general tone of the Ministry, so that it is less easy to gather from him what the views of the Council of Ministers and of the Sultan may be; His Excellency's opinion on the employment of Europeans is opposed, I think, to that of many of his colleagues. He sees in their employment the surest means of securing

more favourable judgment at the hands of Europe. He explained to me, on a previous occasion, that if the Ministry would only follow his advice as to the employment of English gendarmerie officers at Van and Diarbekir, much less would be heard of outrages and Kurdish incursions.

I make this explanation to show that, as far as the Foreign Minister is concerned, he would, I think, prefer the guarantee of territory, with the continuation of our right of interference, to the simultaneous suspension of the guarantee and interference; and, indeed, I have thus far not met with any symptoms of overtures for replacing the Cyprus Convention by other arrangements. Musurus Pasha has not mentioned the subject to me since he has been here. Possibly the reason may be that the Porte discovers, in the Article of the Treaty of Berlin relating to the provinces inhabited by Armenians, and which even speaks of the supervision of the Signatory Powers, so much right of interference, and, judging by present appearances, anticipates so much determination on the part of the Powers in carrying it out, that it does not feel that it would recover freedom from interference, even if the Convention were denounced.

"Reforms," they may say, "are being demanded by the Six Powers. We cannot refuse them. We shall be compelled to carry them out. We shall, therefore, be wiser if we wait to see to what extent England takes separate action and makes separate claims on the basis of her separate Treaty, before we propose to cancel at once the guarantee of our Asiatic provinces and our special liability to England in respect of reforms."

While acting in concert with all the other Powers as to Asia Minor as on all other questions, it is, of course, difficult to act on the Cyprus Convention at the same time. However, I have fully impressed myself with the wishes and aims of Her Majesty's Government on this very important question, and will lose no opportunity of carrying them out if it is possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 11.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 142.) *Therapia, July 13, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kaisoriyeh, on the subject of a riot which had occurred at Azizieh between Circassian slaves and their masters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Captain Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 14. Political.) *Kaiseriyeh, June 30, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that when at Azizieh on the 27th instant I was informed that a fight had lately occurred between some Teherkess slaves and their Teherkess masters, of which the following are the particulars:—

2. It would appear that lately the slaves, hearing what has been done to put a stop to slavery elsewhere, have become dissatisfied with their condition and anxious for freedom. With this object they sent some time ago two delegates with a petition to the Sivas Vali. The Vali stated he would think the matter over. Nothing was, however, done.

3. On the 21st of the month, twenty-six slaves, whether acting on their own responsibility or else as representatives of the whole body, I do not know, left their houses and families and ran away to the hills in the direction of the Uzun Yaila, declaring they would no longer serve as slaves. The masters started in pursuit, and after a fight, in which one slave-owner, Shakir Bey, and one slave were killed, captured six of them.

Of the rest of the party, I am informed seventeen found their way to Sivas, where they were imprisoned by the Vali, while three remain unaccounted for.

Meanwhile the masters have also sent a deputation to represent their case to the Vali.

4. I have spoken to the Azizieh Kaimakam. He acknowledges the gravity of the situation, says the whole body of slaves are now waiting to see what will be the issue of the affair, but that the matter is now in the hands of the Sivas Vali, who has as yet taken no decision. He further states that on the whole the slaves are not badly treated, and that slavery has existed among the Teherkess from time immemorial, but was obliged to confess that slaves are bought and sold, the prices varying for males from 20 to 30 liras, and for females from 30 to 100 or 120 liras, according to their looks. It is from this class that the inmates of Stamboul and other harems are recruited. The Kaimakam puts down the number of slaves in the Azizieh district, including men, women, and children, at 2,000, of which 500 are full-bodied males. He estimates that it would cost 40,000 or 50,000 liras to purchase their freedom.

5. It is probable that the Sivas Vali, unless forced or otherwise induced, will take no decision, and allow the matter to settle itself as best it may. As to what should be done, the best that could happen for all parties would be for Government to purchase the freedom of the slaves, and, with a view to recoup itself, charge them so much per annum for a certain period. But this is improbable. To declare the slaves free by a stroke of the pen would inevitably lead to bloodshed and fighting. On the whole, I am inclined to think that the Mukiatihi Laws, by which slaves have a right to purchase their freedom by making small annual payments to their masters for certain fixed periods, might at any rate tend to a settlement of the question. At the same time, a law might be passed that all children born after a certain date were free. That something should and must be done is evident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 11 A.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 129.) *Constantinople, July 19, 1880, 10·45 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

MY telegram No. 128.

Foreign Minister denies most positively any intention on part of Turkish authorities to seize upon the harvest in Kurdistan. No such orders have been or will be given. He will cause inquiry to be made whether the report has originated in any [?] on part of local authorities in any direction.

I have telegraphed to Consuls in Kurdistan.

No. 11 B.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 138.) *Therapia, July 23, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

I PROPOSE to prepare a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs recapitulating the worst cases of abuse, anarchy, miscarriage of justice, and insecurity of life and property in Asia Minor, and to end by pointing out that the Porte has broken, and is breaking, the [? stipulation] on which the guarantee in the Cyprus Convention is dependent.

Does your Lordship approve?

No. 11 C.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 23, 6·50 P.M.)

(No. 139.) *Therapia, July 23, 1880, 2·55 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 129, Major Trotter denies having heard any report of harvest being seized.

No. 12.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 315.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 24, 1880, 5·10 P.M.

YOURS No. 138.

Cabinet approve of note to Minister for Foreign Affairs recapitulating the worst cases of abuse, anarchy, miscarriage of justice, and insecurity of life and property in Asia Minor.

But they think that for the present it would be well to confine to conversation the concluding intimation to the Porte proposed by you.

No. 13.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 316.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 24, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

NOT advisable to interfere with discretion of Porte in requiring passports from passengers and pilgrims arriving at Jeddah, but you will represent the injustice of the local authorities being allowed to repel British subjects who, through the insufficiency of the notice, may arrive at Jeddah unprovided with them.

No. 14.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 295.)

Foreign Office, July 24, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE conveyed to your Excellency by telegraph the approval by the Cabinet of your proposal to draw up and present to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs a note recapitulating the worst cases of abuse, anarchy, miscarriage of justice, and insecurity of life and property in Asia Minor which have been brought to your Excellency's notice by the Reports of Her Majesty's Consuls in these territories.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, however, it would be better for your Excellency to abstain from any allusion in the note to the broken pledges of reform by which the Porte is bound in consideration of the guarantee secured to her by the Cyprus Convention, and you should therefore refer to this matter in conversation only, at all events for the present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 15.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 17. Political. Confidential.)

Diarbekir, June 1, 1880.

My Lord,

BEING on the point of leaving Diarbekir for Erzeroum, I think it desirable to make a few remarks as to the state of the vilayet generally.

The Diarbekir Vilayet until very recently contained four sandjaks, viz., Diarbekir, Mardin, Malatia, and Sert; the last of these, which has generally been considered as the worst governed of the four, has lately been transferred to the newly-formed Vilayet of Bitlis, and will not be further considered here, I shall pass through it on my journey to Erzeroum, and will report thereon hereafter.

Of the other three, Malatia lies to the west of Diarbekir, the Vilayet of Kharput intervening between them; communication between the two sandjaks is difficult, and the Vali here knows little or nothing of what is going on there. I have never myself visited the Malatia Sandjak, although I have in recent despatches had occasion to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the internal feuds amongst the Kurds, which necessitated an application on the part of the local authorities for troops, which latter were never sent. Later on I reported serious disturbances at the city of

Malatia on the occasion of the late repudiation by the Government of their metallic currency.

In consequence of these last disturbances, Ferid Bey, our energetic Inspector-General of Justice, was ordered to proceed there to investigate the cause of the disturbances and to punish the guilty parties. That officer returned here a few days ago, and as he has confidentially submitted to me his Report to the Supreme Government on the subject, I think I cannot do better than submit a literal translation of the document in question.

A perusal of this genuine Report of an Ottoman official to the Sublime Porte will, I think, demonstrate to your Lordship that the state of the Government of the Malatia Sandjak leaves much to be desired.

I will now turn to the Mardin Sandjak, which lies to the east of Diarbekir.

The bloody tragedy reported in my No. 10, Political, of the 20th March still remains unpunished, although many weeks ago Ferid Bey informed me that nearly the whole of the guilty parties were arrested, and one or more of the principal criminals had turned King's evidence against the remainder. (It is curious to contrast the delay here with the celerity with which the Government acted in punishing those who were guilty of illegality against the Government officials who so misgoverned at Malatia.)

Hadjo, the noted freebooter, is still at large, and M. Yakimauski, my Russian collegue here, who returned to-day from a short visit to Mardin, informed me that while there a murderous attack was made by a large party of armed ruffians outside the town on some Circassians. He himself heard the firing; the Governor sent four policemen to rescue the Circassians, one of whom was killed,* but the police were driven off, one of them being wounded. The Mutessarif, Said Pasha, himself told the Russian Consul, in presence of several officials, that he had over and over again applied to the Vali for more troops, those at his disposal in the city of Mardin consisting of one weak company; that he had not sufficient force to arrest the noted bad characters still at large, and cannot do it without more troops.

Unfortunately I happen to know as a fact that our Vali, as well as many of the leading men here, are bitterly hostile to Said Pasha, and would, I believe, be by no means sorry were some catastrophe to occur which would result in the dismissal of the Mutessarif. It will be recollected that in March last, impressed with the want of force in the Mardin districts, I induced my colleagues to join with me in pressing on the Vali the urgent necessity of sending more troops to Mardin. Our representations met with no success.

Turning to the last remaining sandjak, that of Diarbekir itself, from Deyrik, 45 miles south of our city, I have received most pressing entreaties from the inhabitants, begging me to urge action on the authorities to clear the Mazi Dagh, lying between Deyrik and Mardin, of the robber bands who commit frequent depredations on them. The measures taken by the Vali are feeble and ineffectual.

Several weeks ago I represented to the Vali that at Hainí, 40 miles north of Diarbekir, there was great disorder, and that life and property were unsafe. As usual, he asserted that the reports I had heard were exaggerated; but a somewhat startling confirmation of them was brought into Diarbekir two days ago, in the shape of a gory human head in a sack. This, on presentation to the Vali, turned out to be the head of one of the notables of Hainí, a Hadji, Mustafa Agha by name. It appears that a few months ago a local notable, Sheikh Mustafa, was murdered. His friends, possibly with justice, suspected Hadji Mustafa of the deed; and a few days ago, a large body of the late Sheikh's adherents, headed by his son, attacked Hadji Mustafa in a farm near the town, killed him, and, it is said, cut him to pieces, and securing the head, took it to Hainí, and publicly affixed it to a large tree, loudly proclaiming the why and wherefore of the deed. The head was subsequently taken possession of by the Hadji's friends, and brought in to Diarbekir in a sack. On my complimenting the Vali on the admirable way in which justice was administered at Hainí, he had the effrontery at first to ignore all knowledge of the transaction; but finding that I knew as much about the case as he did, he finally admitted the facts of the case, but appeared not to attach the slightest importance to it.

I did not see Baker Pasha's Report on this vilayet, but feel certain that he represented it as in a most unsatisfactory state. Since his departure things have gone from bad to worse. The Pasha is a mere tool in the hands of a most corrupt Administration of men who have been in power far beyond the legal period. I understand that, since General Baker's departure, the authorities at Constantinople have four

* N.B.—Subsequent information makes me doubt the truth of the man being killed.—H. T

times telegraphed to the Vali to change the members of the Idaré Medjliss, but the order remains unfulfilled; and in the interval, five highly-placed ex-officials of notorious guilt, who have been under trial during the past year before the Idaré Medjliss, have one and all been acquitted of the crimes imputed to them. Amongst them are the notorious Khoorshid Bey, late Mutessarif of Mardin, guilty of corruption and maladministration generally, —— Effendi, late Kaïmakam of Djezireh, &c.

This disobedience in carrying out the orders of the Porte has not only enabled the members of the Government and the Idaré Medjliss to pocket the large sums obtained in bribes on such occasions, but have enabled them to continue to carry out successfully the large speculations in grain in which they were most of them more or less engaged, and in which, by judiciously manipulating or occasionally suppressing the contradictory orders coming from Constantinople with respect to the exportation of grain, they used unlawfully their high positions to enrich themselves at the expense of the lives of others of the Sultan's subjects.

As it may be some time before I return to this vilayet, I take this opportunity of informing your Excellency that, in my opinion, it is useless to hope for reform as long as the present Vali and his present surroundings (notably his "Mektubdji" or Chief Secretary) are in power. He assures me that he has often sent in his resignation, and I heartily wish that the Government could be persuaded to accept it, and appoint in his place a good man, such as Aziz Pasha, the recently-appointed Vali of Kharput, or Said Pasha, Baker Pasha's present collegue. I am certain that either of these men would make a better Governor than the present.

The Sublime Porte must surely be aware of the weakness and imbecility of the present Governor, and I have special reason for knowing that Said Pasha, the Grand Vizier, is specially well-informed upon the subject; but even were this not so, I imagine that a study of Baker Pasha's Report on the vilayet, in conjunction with a still later one by Aziz Pasha, would very speedily open his eyes.

I would be more keen in urging the dismissal of the Governor were it probable that even a moderately good man would be appointed to succeed him; but it is always as likely as not that a newly-appointed Vali may be a worse man than his predecessor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Report by Inspector-General of Tribunals on the State of the Sandjak of Malatia.

(Translation.)
(Very Confidential.)

MY departure for Malatia with a view to ascertain who were the instigators of the conflict at Malatia, to bring them to trial and punish them, and to inquire into certain measures of reform which the sandjak stands in need of, followed upon an authorization which I received from the Vali of Diarbekir, approved by their Excellencies Baker and Said Pashas, and by authority telegraphed to me from Constantinople.

Your Excellency is aware, from the reports furnished by the Vali of Diarbekir, that on the 17th and 18th March from 1,000 to 2,000 people, with from 15 to 20 women at their head, went to the Government House, stating that they were in great distress owing to the reduction of the metallic currency and the closing of the shops in consequence, mingling their petitions with loud cries. They even dared to throw stones at the officials who were present, and handled rather roughly some gendarmes and some officers who (opposed them?). While the place was in a great state of alarm on account of these proceedings, part of the band proceeded to plunder a grain store, and another party set upon and beat a number of officers, and were proceeding to other acts of intimidation when some of the more respectable people persuaded the crowd to disperse.

The statements that they were discontented with the Cadi, the Tarbar Aghasi, the Kiatibs of the Idaré Medjliss and Court of First Instance, and Ahmed Effendi, a member of Idaré Medjliss, were favourably received by the vilayet authorities, and these persons were dismissed from their appointments provisionally. Beyond, however, plundering the two store-houses before referred to, insulting and ill-treating a number of officers, breaking the windows of the Government House, and interrupting

the course of Government business for a time, no further harm was done, and the crowd dispersed, and the following day tranquillity was restored.

Although it was desirable that the investigation into this conflict should be carried out forthwith, and that the instigators thereof should be punished, this step was delayed, and I went to Malatia at a time when the influence of the Government was reduced to a very low ebb, and when the people received a great deal of countenance, and, as it appeared that the presence of a military force was of all things most imperative, we wrote for two companies of soldiers to be sent to Malatia from Hakim Khané.

After the tranquillity of the place had been assured by adding to this military force two companies of infantry which were then at Malatia, and the same number of regular cavalry, we immediately proceeded to carry out our investigations. Fifteen suspected persons were forthwith interrogated and placed under arrest. Of these, fourteen who were found to have been prominent in the affair were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from one to three years, and seven of them were sent to Diarbekir.

Now, these events were originally brought about (1) by the reduction of the price of metallic money; (2) by the distress to which the people were reduced owing to large quantities of grain being withheld by the monopolizers of grain; and (3) by the fact that the orders of the Government with regard to the money were not properly explained to the people by the local authorities. Though the Sandjak of Malatia is one of the most important in Asiatic Turkey, its administration having remained in the hands of a person like Ibrahim Bey, the late Mutessarif, for the last two years, the affection of the people towards the Government has been reduced to a minimum, and the fact that for two years the condition of the sandjak has not been looked into properly is the prime cause of these disorders. Now, seeing that these events originated in the causes recapitulated above, especially in the fact that while the telegram on the subject of the money was wrongly interpreted, and the business generally was suspended in consequence, the Government took no steps to find a remedy in the matter; and further, in the fact that the people of Malatia was divided into three parties, each of which seeks an opportunity of attaining its own objects (which is a result of the bad administration of the sandjak being prolonged), to enter minutely into a consideration of every point in the matter would open a question which would greatly strengthen these divisions which already exist. The reason that no severe measures were adopted in the matter was that we were aware that when a great many people are prosecuted for a trifling offence all the law officials are required to investigate the case, and that the conflict at Malatia was not directed against the Imperial Government, but was directed against certain officials and a certain state of things (abuses).

Now when the persons whom I have above referred to as having been prosecuted had been removed from Malatia to Diarbekir, the influence of the Government was completely restored; and after tranquillity had been thus secured, the five officials against whom the complaints of the people had been brought were dismissed and others appointed in their place; and the Vali was written to requesting him to summon to Diarbekir Osman and Ahmed Effendi, members of the Idaré Medjliss, who it was ascertained on investigation were the causes of the district being thus split up into two parties.

As your Excellency is aware, the people of this sandjak consist of nomad Kurds and other tribes, and it is impossible to deny that there is urgent need of the execution of certain measures calculated to secure tranquillity for the future.

Firstly, that the administration of the sandjak ought to be entrusted to a competent Mutessarif, and the other officials should be men of ability and not natives of the place. Then, with a view to preserve permanently the influence of the Government, certain tribes which are in a state of rebellion should be located elsewhere, and, on the other hand, to assure the subject races immunity from their depredations, one of the first local needs is the stationing of two regiments under a number of commandants at Husunmanzur, Aghché Dagh, and Malatia itself.

Secondly, it is very important that five or six of the leading men of Malatia should be summoned to Diarbekir and be detained there for a time; and with a view to take the administration of the sandjak into serious consideration, and facilitate an inquiry into the condition of the people and the Government officials . . . . . measures for bringing about and prolonging the tranquillity of this sandjak have been thoroughly considered, for as things now stand Malatia lies at the other side of Kharpoot and Maden, and at sixty hours' distance from Diarbekir, and therefore the

authorities of the vilayet find great difficulty in conducting a local investigation, and the people find great difficulty in communicating with the authorities at head-quarters.

Thirdly, in the Vilayet of Diarbekir itself the Kaïmakams are almost all powerless and unable to discharge their duties, and those of Malatia, with the exception of one or two, are an utterly incapable set of men, but although it is difficult to secure a better administration and the reform and progress of the district with such men, yet, bearing in mind that however necessary it may be to have capable Kaïmakams established there, it is very difficult at present to find efficient men to send there at the present rate of pay, but that there are nevertheless very many capable officers unemployed both here and in other parts of the vilayet; it is evident that a great advantage would accrue from the appointment of Kaïmakams here, even temporarily, with an addition to their salary as now fixed by law.

Fourthly, To carry out certain serious measures of reforms, and found an Educational Department, which shall urge the district on to follow the path of progress, and as the advantageous position of Malatia, its natural wealth, and the quantity of Vakouf property available, remove all difficulties in the way of doing so, I beg to point out that it is very desirable that from 60,000 to 70,000 piastres be set apart from the funds of the Evkaf for educational purposes, and that the public road which leads to Sivas, and which is the channel of communication, should be kept in repair.

As your Excellency is aware, the people of the Vilayet of Diarbekir generally are in a state of barbarism, and instead of preventing the natural consequences of such a state of things nothing has been done.

It is a long time since we have seen the radical faults of the gendarmerie and administration generally; and the non-existence of a military force here, and the severity of the famine, have weakened the country, and checked all means of progress and good administration.

The Tanzimat of 1291 was first applied in the districts contiguous to Constantinople and to those near the sea, as Broussa and Aidin; and after being taken up in districts where the people show an aptitude for education and civilization, it became general in every part of Turkey. Owing to the distance of this place from Constantinople, and the barbarism of the inhabitants, the delay in carrying out here some of those laws which have been promulgated everywhere else, that is to say, the delay in introducing a Regulation which secures every sort of civil liberty, and points out the path of good order which every civilized State should follow, arose from the fact that it was impossible here to carry out in its entirety the Tradé as in other civilized parts of Turkey. No doubt we want time; but while the entire administration of the vilayet has been entrusted to the Vali, for every matter he is obliged to consult with a body of irresponsible men, composed of residents of the vilayet. If we removed their influence from the Vali, it would have a very good effect. My argument is supported by several circumstances which have occurred lately. The removal of the collection of the taxes from the hands of the soldiers to those of paid collectors was a change demonstrated by facts to be necessary.

It is unnecessary that I should state to your Excellency that it has become a custom to profit by the bad administration of the officials, and it is necessary to find a means of depriving the Notables of their influence.

We must take extraordinary steps to establish a military Administration, like that which prevails in India. The permanent maintenance of military force here will, I am sure, secure the object we have in view, both for the present and for the future.

Although I am ignorant of your Excellency's intentions upon this matter, and as to whether this plan will be executed or not, I have taken the liberty of pointing out what, in my opinion, is necessary.

No. 16.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 157.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 19, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Report which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral upon the civil administration of the town and Vilayet of Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 78.)
Sir, *Angora, July 10, 1880.*

I BEG most respectfully to call your Excellency's attention to the present state of the civil administration of this city and province.

The Vali, Khourshid Pasha, an octogenarian, and a martyr to rheumatism, still possesses considerable energy in spite of his great age and many infirmities, and has set out on a three months' tour of the Sandjaks of Kursheir, Yozgat, and Kaiseraih, which form the eastern and south-eastern parts of the province. His object is two-fold, to look into the administration of these sandjaks personally and to take a course of hot baths for which Kursheir is celebrated. His Chargé d'Affaires here during his absence is Izzet Begh, the Mutessarif of Kurshier, a fairly capable man, but timid, and as he has been left with no real powers, the permanent officials do much as they please, and as these are notoriously greedy and corrupt, bitter complaints, which are too well founded, are made by the people.

The late Defterdar (Financial Controller), Husni Effendi, was guilty of grossly insulting and using very abusive language towards a British subject resident here. This led to a long correspondence and controversy with the Local Government, the Porte, Her Majesty's Embassy, and this Vice-Consulate, and with the details of which your Excellency is probably familiar. The result was that a month ago Husni Effendi was summoned to Constantinople, and an inquiry held there into his conduct. The result of that inquiry was, I am informed, the condemnation of the inculpated official, but no official Report on the subject has been issued, and nothing is known here of a successor being appointed, or when he is to arrive.

The Mektoubjie, or Head of Correspondence Department, Fehmi Bey, was dismissed by the Porte a few days ago, on the complaint of the Vali, with whom he has long been on bad terms. He was an intelligent and well-educated official, well liked by all, especially the Europeans here; he is to be succeeded in a few weeks or months, as the case may be, by Mahmoud Bey, who was an official here six years ago, but was gravely compromised in some embezzlement of public funds intended for the starving people of Yozgat during the famine of 1874-75.

The three most important Departments of Governor-General, Finance, and Correspondence are thus at present practically vacant, and the result is to be regretted. The administrative machinery of the province does not move very freely or regularly even when the staff is complete, and with so many vacancies I have some fears that it will come to a standstill altogether. What makes this all the more probable is that the remaining officials are all actively engaged in intrigues to discredit the Vali and secure his supersession, whilst the Vali, having succeeded in ridding himself of his principal opponents, is equally anxious to secure an entire change of staff, as the new comers will be more devoted to his interests and policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 17.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1880.*

THE accompanying despatch has reached me this morning, a short time before the departure of the Queen's messenger.

I shall not fail to call the attention of the Porte to several points alluded to in the papers forwarded by Captain Everett.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Vice-Consul Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 7. Consular.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, July 7, 1880.*

IN accordance with the intention expressed in my despatch No. 6, Consular, wheat was purchased and forwarded to Alashguerd. On the 17th ultimo Messrs. Parmelee and Chambers, American missionaries, proceeded themselves into the district to superintend the distribution, returning on the 28th, since when, at my request, they have kindly written the Report which I now inclose.

Perhaps the most important point to notice in it is that the missionaries have independently come to the same conclusion as Dr. Lanzoni, and estimate the amount sown as one-tenth the usual quantity.

I have made numerous inquiries as to the yield that may be expected from such an excellent harvest as we hope to have this year, and I find it to be at the most ten-fold. Thus, if the expectations of the people are not disappointed, the result of the harvest will equal the quantity of grain usually sown. From this must be deducted, firstly, one-tenth for the tithe, secondly, one-tenth for the seed, which this year is taken out by the proprietors before division, and lastly, four-tenths, being the half of the remainder. Thus a large proportion of the villagers will be left with four-tenths of harvest, the whole of which was equal only to an ordinary sowing, or in other words, with the best harvest that can be expected, they will be compelled to live till the harvest of 1882 on a quantity of wheat amounting to rather less than half of what they obtained in the very worst years. This is evidently not possible. Certainly the reasoning does not apply to all, for some of the villagers are themselves land-owners, and will therefore take nine-tenths of the harvest. The diminution of the population, too, must not be overlooked. Still, I consider the outlook as very bad, and I cannot help reiterating the opinion expressed in my despatch No. 6, Consular, of the 14th June, that if the famine is to be averted, a serious effort should be made to supply seed this autumn, in addition to relief.

The increase of the sheep tax is exceedingly hard at such a time, as also is the exaction of payment for the large quantities of sheep which died between the preparation of the lists and the collection of the tax, and it is all the more unjust when we consider the large sums which the Government still owe the people for supplies furnished during the war.

On the whole, the condition of the population seems more pitiable than can be easily conceived. All the oppressions mentioned in my despatch No. 1, Political, of the 11th October, 1879, are not only in existence, but weigh more heavily than ever on the people, while, in addition, they have to endure the sufferings of hunger.

Yesterday I received another telegram from Constantinople, announcing 600*l.* available for relief purposes, and I intend to transport grain to Diadin and Bayazid, where the missionaries, from what they heard, fear the sufferings are still greater.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Report of a Tour through the Alashgird Plain, made by Messrs. Parmelee and Chambers, American Missionaries, for the purpose of distributing 35 Erzeroum somars of Wheat (about 420 bushels) to the hungry People.

OUR tour consumed twelve days, June 17 to 28 inclusive. The copious rains of the previous week had gladdened the hearts of the people in the district we visited, and the six days of drenching showers under which we performed our work went far to confirm the rising hope of an unusually large return at harvest for the amount of seed sown. We found the farmers still busy at the seeding, and they assured us it was not yet too late, for their soil was rich and generous.

On careful inquiry, we concluded that about one-tenth the usual average was under crop. In many cases we found that the people had preferred the risk of starvation or a precarious existence upon greens during the summer, rather than leave their fields unsown.

Everywhere vegetation was luxurious. We visited and relieved, to the extent of our ability, Zedican, Khatchloo, Hamad, Ashkali, Haji Laphar Peran, Yeratsoo, Khiabeg, Yegnatap, Chilkani, Charat Khasdour, Hoshan, and Toprak-kali. From Yerawo, Asafee, and Kara-kilissa deputations reached us, and we gave on their representations. Finding it necessary to leave the district before the distribution was completed, we left a trusty man in charge of the remaining grain, with orders to relieve another Kurdish village which we understood to be in great distress. The total number of needy families in these eighteen villages we found to be 450, with an average of eight souls to the family. There was much sickness and exhaustion from insufficient nourishment, many of the villagers having been compelled to live on greens since last fall. We saw many with terribly distended stomachs, others with swollen throats and tongues. Sometimes we were complacently informed that such and such cases would die to-morrow. The condition of Hamad was especially pitiable. Each house we entered presented us with the spectacle of exhausted groups huddled together. We counted 100 sick, many seriously so, from want of nourishment, and received the names of 30 who had died of hunger in this village. The notes taken on the spot are full of such references as:—"Husband died of hunger;" "man swollen from eating greens;" "three died;" "this case is desperate;" "villagers say these two men will die to-morrow"; "this is a desolation; most of the houses seem roofless, the Kurds having carried off the timbers during the absence of the owners who fled with retiring Russians;" "this man used to be very rich; he ate up fifty cattle during winter, and is left with one cow; his wife, while gathering greens in the mountains the other day in a drenching rain, took sick, and was with difficulty carried home," &c.

Most of these villages were depopulated and destroyed during the war, and still present a desolate appearance. Three harvests have failed the people, and the coming harvest at best must be sadly insufficient, especially as those who have furnished the seed for the scanty sowing of this year stipulate for the seed and half the remaining crop at harvest. We found that the Armenian Committee had afforded some assistance, which, however, had been, in nearly all cases, already consumed.

In Hamad we obtained a specimen of bread which the villagers asserted had been in use three months, and which was made partly of good flour and partly of flour obtained from wheat which some fifteen years ago had been collected as tithes and stored in a pit. For years the pit had been roofless, and the grain is utterly rotten. The stench of it, and, indeed, of the bread, was sickening to us.

The Government has afforded no relief, but has continued its course of exaction and oppression. At Toprak-kali we found an official who said he was there to receive Government grain for distribution at £ T. 6 per somar. The Kaïmakam of the district begged us to give to none who might have credit sufficient to enable them to buy his wheat. At Khasdour we were aroused in the morning by the sound of angry voices. We learned that a zaptieh was trying to wring out of the penniless, hungry people the sum of 5*l.* for wheat they had purchased from the Government in the winter. When the zaptieh had gone we said, "What will you do?" They answered, "Oh, we will have to pay it." "But how can you pay it if you have nothing?" "The zaptiehs will come and eat what food we may beg and beat and abuse us till they get the money, which we will have to borrow from the Kurds." The sheep tax (3½ piastres for each animal, an advance of 20 paras above assessment of last year) has been collected, though great numbers of the animals (individual cases

were instanced in which the numbers reached nine-tenths of the flock) had perished during the interval that elapsed between the assessment and the collection of the tax. The attempt is also being made to collect arrears due before the war.

We found the Christians in a state of abject terror, resulting from the outrages of Kurds and Circassians, who seem to be treated with indifference, if not with favour, by the officials. We were assured on good authority that when the Mutessarif of Bayazid assumed office he summoned the leading Kurds and let them understand that their oppression of the Christians was fully in accordance with the policy he intended to pursue.

Some of the complaints of the villagers we note below:—

At Toprak-kali Kurds broke into a Christian house during the absence of the master and outraged a woman and a girl of 10 years. The parties were known, the case proved, but after a few days' imprisonment the inhuman scoundrels were liberated without further punishment.

At Khasdour the Kurds burglarized a house, but though arrested and well known were set free without punishment. Fifteen men on the way to bring grain for the Armenian Committee from Boulanik were robbed by a company of Circassians. One of their number was killed and two wounded. The wounded men, one of whom we saw, are recovering. No arrests have been made.

The Christians assert that the only check upon the Kurds is their fear of the English. We were ourselves inspected but not molested by two bands of robbers, and several times during our journey our protection was sought by companies of Armenians.

A case of oppression by the soldiers was also brought under our notice. Suleiman Agha, Captain, Mehmed Effendi, Lieutenant, and Mehmed Agha, Lieutenant, with nine soldiers were ordered from Toprak-kali to Bayazid. For moving their chattels they pressed into service seventy carts and their drivers from the villages. On the way the drivers were starved and so cruelly beaten that they were glad to escape, leaving their property in the soldiers' hands.

At Khatchloo we obtained a particular account of that village's loss in the transaction, as follows:—5 carts, 20 oxen, 20 bags, 5 chains, 5 straps, 5 thick ropes, 15 cords. These villagers engaged some Kurds for 1,000 piastres to proceed to Bayazid, and, if possible, bring back their property.

On their march the soldiers freely turned their animals to graze on the growing wheat by the way, occasioning great loss to the owners.

Returning home we encountered a company of men belonging to the village of Komaisor on the Passin Plain. They said they were just from prison at Hassan Kaleh, and explained that the Government was endeavouring to collect from them 20 somars of wheat and 6 somars of barley. That amount had been stored by the Government in their village some time before the war, and a receipt had been taken from the villagers. During the war the Russians plundered the Government stores, and now the villagers are being pursued for it.

Both going and returning we saw great numbers of refugees, and of carts laden with old timbers. On inquiry we found that the refugees, both Moslems and Christians, were largely from the lower Passin, the distress being great and life and property very insecure in the districts contiguous to the Russian border. The old timbers were in part the property of the refugees, and in part the extra buildings—now no longer needed that their cattle had perished or been eaten—of villagers on the Passin Plain, who hoped to obtain a little wheat from the proceeds of their sale.

The distress in the Kaïmakamliks of Kara-kilissa and Diadin is much greater than that in the district we visited. We listened to heartrending reports from those quarters, and turned away with sad hearts that our limited means would not allow us to proceed there. Help may already be too late to save the Kurdish villages from utter depopulation.

(Signed) AL. P. PARMELEE,
R. CHAMBERS,
American Missionaries at Erzeroum.

No. 18.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 166.)

Therapia, July 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir and Lieutenant Chermside upon the state of affairs in the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Diarbekir, and Sivas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Acting Vice-Consul Burnham to Major Trotter.

(No. 2. Political. Confidential.)

Diarbekir, June 19, 1880.

Sir,

SINCE informing you by telegraph at Bitlis of the serious riot which occurred in Diarbekir on Monday last, the 14th instant, I have been seriously occupied in collecting the fullest details of the event and of the causes which brought it about.

Shortly after your departure for Sert, the price of bread rose to 90 paras the oke, and the medjidié was no longer accepted by the bakers at 22 piastres, but at 19 piastres.

The question presented itself to the minds of the people at large, Why has the price of bread risen when the harvest promises so well, and what has become of the large quantities of grain which came into Diarbekir not very long ago from Kharpoot and Sivas? A feeling of intense indignation was excited against certain members of the Medjliss, who were accused of buying up all the grain which existed in the town for their own selfish ends. Of these the most conspicuous was Gazazian Yussuf Effendi,—conspicuous from the fact that a long time ago he contracted to supply the town with bread at 50 paras the oke. It appears that when the contract was made, a list was compiled of the various grain holders, specifying how much each would supply and at what price, and as soon as the first supply was exhausted the list was renewed. You will remember that, about four months ago, there was a period of great scarcity, when it became perfectly justifiable to raise the price of bread above contract price; but when large supplies of wheat were subsequently brought from Kharpoot and Sivas, the price of bread went down.

Although large quantities of grain were sent to Djezireh and Mosul, it is hard to believe that the stock then remaining in Diarbekir has already been exhausted. When, however, after the occurrence of Monday last, steps were taken to ascertain exactly how things stood, no more grain could be found than would suffice for four days to keep the entire town. From time to time, moreover, bread issued from the bakeries of the most inferior description, mixed with dirt and various impurities. Last week there was a most unaccountable scarcity, only two bakers supplying the whole town. For this, for the bad bread, and for the recent rise in price, Yussuf Effendi was chiefly blamed; yet an equal, if not greater, share of blame rests with the other members of the Medjliss, who not only failed to supply the full amount which they had agreed to, but gave wheat unfit for food.

It is true that, compared with other places where no bread contracts exists, the price of bread in Diarbekir has never been very great; and it may be argued in favour of Yussuf Effendi that, had this contract not been entered into by him, the price of bread would possibly be now twice what it is.

On Saturday last a petition was presented to the Vali for the removal of Yussuf Effendi, Hadji Mehemet, Jerghis Agha, Minassian Hohannes Effendi, and others from the Medjliss, for the repeal of the bread contract, and permission to the bakers to sell the bread freely. The petitioners were refused an audience, and after they had again presented their petition on the Sunday and Monday, the Vali gave orders for the arrest of four of their number—two Mussulmans and two Christians.

On Monday morning Yussuf Effendi called upon Ferid Bey, the Inspector of Justice, to urge the necessity of punishing the petitioners, and taking coercive measures against the people at large, who are now loud in their menaces against him. Ferid Bey replied that there was no law in this country to punish men for presenting a petition; that Yussuf Effendi had only himself to blame; that he, with one or two

others, had monopolized all the grain in the town, and, for his own safety, ought to leave the town for awhile. From the house of Ferid Bey Yussuf Effendi proceeded to the Law Courts. As he approached the Bidayet Makhkumési,* he encountered a large and excited crowd of people, mostly Christians. In reply to their angry remonstrances that they must have bread, that he was the cause of universal misery in the town, he appears to have taunted them. They thereupon pelted him with stones, and drove him into the Bidayet Makhkumési, the windows of which were all broken. They followed, and were on the point of dispatching him, when Azimet Agha, an officer of the police force, threw himself across his body, and saved his life. The police then drove the people back, and Yussuf Effendi was secretly removed. The Cadi, by order of the Vali, gave him a temporary asylum. Meantime the crowd augmented, and poured through the bazaars *en route* for Yussuf's house. A panic spread in the bazaars, and the merchants closed their shops and dispersed. When the news arrived at the Government konak, the Vali was paralyzed with fear, and remained so more or less the whole day. Later on, a suwari arrived in hot haste with a message from Khoja Giabour, brother of Yussuf Effendi, to say that their house was besieged by a large mob, and begging that troops might be sent at once to the rescue. In vain Ferid Bey and others who were at that moment at the Government konak begged the Vali to proceed to the scene of conflict and try to calm the populace. Unable to move him, Ferid Bey and the Defterdar set out alone, and arrived on the scene shortly after the arrival of the troops under the Liva Pasha. The mere handful of troops now present in Diarbekir was utterly inadequate to restrain such a mob. Yet the conduct of the Liva Pasha and Alai Bey were deserving of every praise. They refused to order the troops to fire; and by good advice, a word put in here and there, ultimately persuaded the people to disperse. Not, however, before great and fatal mischief had been committed. The mob attacked the house from three sides—from the front, from the back door, near the harem, and thirdly, forced a passage into the next house, mounted the terrace, and hurled stones into the rooms below. The foremost of this third detachment, Deli Behaman, nephew of Chermuke Oglulu, a Syrian merchant of Diarbekir, was shot dead as he mounted the terrace.

Firing on the part of the besieged now became general; the populace, however, were only armed with stones. In all, seventeen fell—Deli Behaman, killed on the spot, a Mussulman, who died of his wounds next morning, and the remaining fifteen are now under treatment.

Had the troops fired on the mob the consequences would have been terrible, as there were large numbers of women and children around the house. The united exertions, however, of the Liva Pasha and Alai Bey at length succeeded in dispersing the people.

Ferid Bey at once took steps to render this momentary advantage a permanent one, for there were strong grounds for fear that a similar attack would be made the same day upon the house of Hadji Mehemet Jerghis Agha. He dispatched suitable envoys into the Mussulman quarters to promise that on the morrow bread should be plentiful and good, and the same in the Christian quarters. A meeting was then held at the konak, when it was decided that Yussuf Effendi, his brother Giabour, and Mehemet Jerghis Agha should leave the town at once. The Vali, however, protested against the removal of Hadji Mehemet Jerghis Agha, and it was not until very great pressure had been brought to bear upon the Vali by Ferid Bey and the Liva Pasha that Mehemet Agha was smuggled out of the town on Thursday, three days after the event. Ferid Bey then telegraphed a report to the Ministry of Justice at Constantinople. The Vali likewise telegraphed early on Tuesday morning, assigning the cause of the riot to the scarcity of the bread, without further explanation, thus evading the entire truth. At 10 P.M. that afternoon an answer arrived from the Sublime Porte containing a decided censure upon the Vali. The terms in which the reply of the Porte was couched are pretty nearly as follow, my informant being Ferid Bey himself. Speaking in French, he said they were, "Vous mettez trop minces les causes de cet événement; ce n'est pas seulement le pain, mais ces mauvais accapareurs de blé que vous favorisez." I mention this confidentially as showing the actual feeling which appears to exist at the Sublime Porte with regard to the present Vali, Izzet Pasha.

After the first excitement of the event had passed, Ferid Bey proceeded to ascertain what quantity of grain actually existed in Diarbekir, and after a most careful search, found that there was not more than sufficient to supply the whole town for four days. Apparently all the grain which the speculators in the Medjliss had bought up had been disposed of.

* Court of First Instance.

The Vali remaining inactive, Ferid Bey at last found himself compelled to take the responsibility of things upon himself, and at once proceeded to the telegraph office. Opening communication with the Vali of Kharpoot and Mutessarif of Urfa, he exposed the situation and asked for the immediate despatch of grain and troops to Diarbekir. A few hours later Aziz Pasha, Vali of Kharpoot, replied:—"The prohibition on export of grain from Kharpoot Vilayet has been removed in consequence of what you say, and 1,000 kilog. of wheat leave at once for Diarbekir." The Mutessarif of Urfa replied:—"25,000 okes of wheat leave at once, and two companies of soldiers." Then pressure was again brought to bear upon the Vali, and he reluctantly signed an order for the dismissal of the non-permanent members of the Medjliss and re-election of others in their place.

On Thursday the new elections were carried into effect.

It is impossible to shut one's eyes to the fact, acknowledged by Ferid Bey, Inspector of Justice, Nouri Bey, Consular Agent of the French Republic, and others, that besides the more patent cause of an evil administration causing this outbreak, there has been foreign influence actively at work during the last week. On the day preceding the event a large and excited meeting of Jacobites and Armenians was held at the Russian Consulate, and there is reason to fear that many among those who attacked the house of Yussuf Effendi did so feeling that they had the moral support of the Russian Consul. The mob was composed chiefly of Syrian Jacobites and Armenians. The causes, therefore, of the recent riot may be stated as four; (1) the evil administration of the Vali, who co-operates with the monopolizers of grain; (2) the corruption of the Medjliss, which has now been dissolved; (3) the particular ill-feeling excited towards Yussuf Effendi and Hadji Mehemet Jerghis Agha; and (4) the exercise of foreign influence.

At present the town is tranquil, and it is to be hoped that the energetic action of Ferid Bey in opening all the bakeries and bringing from outside supplies of wheat and troops will have a permanent good result.

The son of Yussuf Effendi now lies under arrest charged with having fired one of the fatal shots.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

P.S.—Another death has occurred since writing the above.

H. D. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 7. Confidential.)

Sivas, June 27, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, while *en route* for Erzeroum, I received instructions from Colonel Wilson to leave Baker Pasha and return here. His Excellency was most anxious for me to accompany him as far as Erzeroum, as an important section of topographical work was shared between his staff and myself; I therefore saw no objection to his telegraphing to Colonel Wilson asking for leave for me to defer my return for a few days, but as the Turkish telegraph service is a very uncertain one, after waiting a due time I returned here, in accordance with my instructions, and reported my arrival on the 23rd June to the Consul-General by telegraph.

Baker Pasha requested me to take the earliest opportunity of communicating confidentially to your Excellency the prospects of his mission and his wishes on the subject. He was detained here six weeks waiting for money and orders to proceed, and is most anxious the same should not recur at Erzeroum. A residence of ten or twelve days is ample time to allow the collection of statistics, &c., by the various members of his staff, who each have their respective duties, and longer delays are costly, both in time and money. Baker Pasha is of opinion that it is of great importance that he should visit and examine the Van country, a place to which his mission has not been ordered. If it is to proceed there, well and good, but if not he thinks that he should be at once recalled. If important matters are under discussion at Stamboul he would prefer immediate recall.

In any case he is anxious that there should be no delay, and in accordance with his wishes I venture to point out to your Excellency the desirability of his at once proceeding or at once returning. A Report is forwarded on each vilayet visited, and

these will be followed by a general Report, which will be the most important document. Your Excellency is already in possession, from my previous despatches, of the principal points and suggestions in Baker Pasha's Reports, which will be recapitulated in the general Report. This latter document will, however, include a Report on communications, their prospects and possible development, mines, forests, &c., which will, I believe, be of great value, as, united to a very varied experience, Baker Pasha has had exceptional opportunities and facilities for forming sound conclusions. He is most anxious that the Porte should take no steps in the way of concessions, &c., before it is in receipt of the statistics and opinion of his Commission.

When I quitted his mission the Report on Sivas had not yet been written, so I am unable to forward as hitherto a précis of it to your Excellency. Since the commencement of his mission Baker Pasha has promised me such statistics, &c., of those he collected as I desired, and I gave him manuscript forms to be filled in; these include most of the points on which the Consul-General called for information; some statistics, such as those of available transport animals, it has not been possible to procure. I regret to say that as most of the lists were still in Turkish I had not time to complete my forms, but Baker Pasha has promised to send me the rest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Lieutenant Chermside to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 8.)

Sivas, July 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the matter of the elections for the Administrative Council of the Vilayet ("Idaré Medjliss") and for the Court of Appeal ("Istenaf") have been referred by the Vali to Constantinople.

In view of the numerous protests that have been raised, he has not availed himself of his right of making a selection, with or without the assistance of the *ex-officio* members of the Idaré Medjliss, from the names returned by the sandjaks, but has simply left the matter to the Porte.

It would have been far more reassuring had he himself taken up a decided attitude in the matter.

The original selection of the candidates, the incidents of the Amasia voting reported by Captain Stewart to you, the pressure of the Vali there which resulted the second time in all but the three Christian "azas" (members) signing the election returns, that on the Armenian Bishop here, &c., leave little doubt that he has been supporting the old "ring" in their attempts to secure re-election.

The whole affair of the elections has been most irregular, no election for the Supreme Council for seven years, then this taking place before the sandjak or district elections. Theoretically, as you, Sir, are aware, the villages elect the "Nahiyyé," or Communal, Council, these, again, the Caza Councils, these the Sandjak Councils, the latter the Vilayet one.

Practically, the cazas take very little interest in the Sandjak Council, and these, again, habitually accept the dictation of the vilayet. An instance of resistance such as that at Amasia is very rare. The *ex-officio* members of the Vilayet Council select the candidates. It is here that most of the intrigue and chicanery come in. For example, a representative for the Greek community was summoned; although there are only three or four families, the man selected was not the accredited representative, but a creature, I am told, of Mehemet Ali's; a similar representative was summoned for the Protestants, also not recognized by the community.

Thus, local influence can easily gain the majority of voices if the Governor-General be a passive spectator or espouse one side, and the great point of selecting the limited number of candidates is gained. The sandjaks, as a rule, endorse whatever is sent to them or the Vali wishes; it is rare, indeed, for them to be much interested in such cases, for influence as widespread as Mehemet Ali's in local affairs is the exception; a line to the Mutessarif or other officials usually secures the recordal of votes as desired. Even when this or the minor elections are conducted in a manner to which no exception can be taken, as far as the Christians are concerned, their members, or "azas," are usually mere dummies.

The theoretical and practical results of representative Assemblies, are thus widely

different in Turkey, and the recent Siwas elections only exemplify how unprepared is the country for such institutions.

As the matter now stands, the selection from the candidates voted for rests with the Porte.

The voting lists were forwarded to Stamboul by the last post, and I telegraphed to you on the 28th June as follows:—

"Vali has not made selection, but leaves matter to Porte. Copy of mazbata and protest by next post."

Appended to the mazbata forwarding the lists is a declaration of the Armenian Bishop's, giving his reasons for refusing to sign. I append a copy and a translation by Mr. Richards.

I append also a translation by the same gentleman of the lists of proposed members for the two Tribunals, as forwarded to the Porte. Of these men, the ones the Christians have objected to are:—

Mehemet Ali, in the former Istenaf, candidate for the new Idaré; Sachlu Effendi, in the former Bidaiet, candidate for the new Istenaf; Shemseddin Effendi, in the former Istenaf, candidate for the new Idaré; Alti Parmah Hussein Effendi, in the former Bidaiet, candidate for the new Istenaf; Mosiam Mikhaiel, or Mose Oghlu, in the former Idaré, candidate for the new Idaré; Potukian Nazaret, in the former Bidaiet, candidate for the new Istenaf.

The last two are objected to as friends of Mehemet Ali, but are considered less objectionable than the others.

It will be seen from the appended lists that, for the Idaré, four Turks have the full number of votes; two of these are the candidates objected to, *i.e.*, Mehemet Ali and Shemseddin.

Two Moslem members are required.

Of the three Christians having votes, one, *i.e.*, Mose Oghlu Mikhaiel (three votes) is objected to as a friend of Mehemet Ali's.

Two Christian members are required.

For the Istenaf, the first eleven on the list and the twenty-fourth or last are the twelve Moslem candidates. Sachlu Effendi with three votes, and Alti Parmah Hussein Effendi with none, are the two men named in the protests. Edhem Effendi, with three votes, is also a friend of Mehemet Ali's. The men heading the poll have not, so far as I am aware, been objected to.

Four Moslem members are required.

The remaining candidates are Christians.

I am not aware of any objections against the candidature of any of them.

Four Christian members are required.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 18.

Declaration.

(Translation.)

WHEREAS certain irregularities have occurred in the proceedings of the Electoral Committee, for instance, the objections raised by the people of Amasia to the mode of election, the admission as members of the Electoral Committee of men who had never been selected either as Vékils or as spiritual heads of the Greek and Protestant sections of the inhabitants respectively, the ruse adopted by the members of the Beladié Medjliss of joining their votes with those of the Home "Bedayet" Court, and so gaining a majority which they otherwise could not have had, the election of four individuals who had for an unusually protracted period acted as members of the different Medjlisses, and in this capacity had excited feelings of indignation and abhorrence in the minds of the great majority of their fellow-townsmen, both Moslem and Christian, the fact that although first and last many complaints have been made to the Sublime Porte and to men in high positions, it is only now that any publicity is given to our assertions; on these grounds I have refused to give my vote in these elections, in proof of which this mazbata is now written.

June 5, 1296 (o.s.). (Signed) Armenian Bishop of Sivas.

Inclosure 5 in No. 18.

List of proposed Members of the "Idaré" and "Istinaff" Medjlisses.

(Translation.)

"Idaré" Medjliss.	No. of Votes recorded.
Mehemet Ali Effendi	4
Kaugal Agassi Abdurrahman Aga	4
Shemseddin Effendi	4
Nonssoughzadé Hurban Effendi	4
Hadji Ali Beyzadé Nouri Bey	0
Hadji Hussein Effendi	0
Bostandji Oglou Amnia Effendi	4
Mose Oglou Mikail Aga	3
Shahinian Agop Aga	2
Derbabian Ohenn Aga	0
Protlar Garabet Aga	0
Kurudilian Kirkor Aglu	0

"Istinaff" Medjlissi.	
Hadji Ahmet Bey	4
Mutesellizadé Ibrahim Aga	4
Sheikh Abdullah Effendi	4
Seid Zulgarnié Mehemet Effendi	3
Sakmurdjizadé Hussein Effendi	3
Satchli Effendi	3
Edhem Effendi	3
Nous-oughzadé Abdurrahman Effendi	2
Zavalizadé Bahri Bey	0
Ali Khanzadé Mehemet Bey	0
Kutchuk Agazadé Abdurrahman Aga	0
Potonkian Nazaret Aga	4
Wassil Oglou Pauli	3
Missakian Istipan Effendi	3
Mamouk Vardojebet	3
Tandourdjian Khatchar Aga	3
Istamboliun Seterek Aga	2
Bagtchedji Oglou Alexan Aga	0
Kourunzian Astin Aga	0
Fisheksdjian Nishan Aga	0
Naichadji Oglou Nikola	0
Tarakian Nikoguss Aga	0
Kouzoundjian Mugerdich Aga	0
Altiparmakzadé Hussein Effendi	0

Inclosure 6 in No. 18.

Lieutenant Chermside to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 9.)

Sir, *Sivas, July 2*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you some remarks concerning the refugees in this vilayet. As you, Sir, are aware, the number of refugees that has been sent to it is enormous, over 25,000; and an utter absence of satisfactory result and settlement attended the proceedings of the former very highly paid Commissioners.

Owing to the good supply of grain in this district during the past very rigorous winter, the fearful consequences that would have befallen these poor people had they been cantoned in the famine districts have not ensued. Loss of stock, however, owing to the severe and protracted winter, has weighed on refugees and peasants alike. Spring sowing, too, has in numerous localities been impossible, or resulted in a failure, though the general prospects of the crops are good.

The refugee question was perhaps, and is, the most urgent of the many calling for adjustment, reform, or settlement, in this vilayet.

At this very time long trains of more refugees from the Kars district are pouring into the eastern portions of the province.

The Government has dealt with the question from time to time by a series of disconnected, half-hearted, inefficient measures that have protracted the sufferings and inconvenience of both residents and refugees, and that have wasted time, money, and lives without either effecting a permanent settlement or developing a fixed plan. The present local Commission has replaced the former highly salaried officials, but so little progress has been made, the complaints that I have met with are so numerous, that I

think it right to lay the matter before you at once, as the summer is passing quickly.

The easiest and least costly system of establishment is to distribute the incomers in small groups, as increments to the existing communities. Were the necessary energy and money forthcoming, I should rather advocate the establishment of completely new settlements, as valuable waste tracts would be thus brought under cultivation, and the population and their products be more likely to increase. Want of communications, market for produce, and trade, however, considerably discount these contingent advantages, as well as those to be derived from any improvements in, or extension of, agriculture. Bad crops at present result in great, almost irremediable distress, but abundant ones are far from producing proportionately beneficial effects.

The system principally adopted by the Government here, as described above, is generally distasteful to, and opposed by, both the resident peasants and the refugees. The former object to newcomers who are to share their lands, and who remain for some time as guests to men of a different race, at times of different religion (Summus quartered on Kizil-Bash, &c.), the latter object to being planted among strangers of different habits and customs, to the severing of ties of kinship and clan. Both sides being ignorant, are, of course, unreasonable. Absurd claims are advanced by possessors to large tracts of land, disgracefully neglected, and utterly beyond their means and energy to cultivate, even if it is theirs. Bribery, local influence, the position of notables, &c., enables others, often those best able to support it, to escape the infliction, and to shift it on to those to whom it may be really an almost insupportable hardship.

Jobbery, favouritism, and injustice, the inevitable concomitants of all Turkish affairs, are hopelessly mixed up with this question, and the incapacity of Turkish officials to conduct or organize systematically any operation, simple or otherwise, receives but another exemplification. The refugees, on their side, are unreasonable. In most of the districts where suitable land is to be found requiring no great preparation, the best sites as regards fuel and water are already occupied, the former being far from abundant. To fetch fuel from a distance, dig water-conduits or wells, construct mills, houses, &c., does not suit the refugees, and the Government, on its part, has been quite wanting in power to infuse a spirit of energy into their characteristic apathy.

For such settlements both money and organization are requisite. For want of the latter, thousands of pounds of the former have already been squandered in giving a dole, now discontinued, to the refugees, and leaving them idle, a course that has aggravated their natural helplessness and destroyed all ideas of independence and self-reliance. Without means of procuring tools, materials, oxen, &c., it is difficult, in many cases impossible, for the people to establish themselves; the Government is, I fear, unable, if only on the score of money, to do it; there is therefore, I imagine, only the other alternative of distributive settlement for the majority of cases where, as among the Roumelian refugees, most of the people are paupers. The enterprise is too extensive for private charity to assist, except on a very small scale, though any funds would prove of great service.

The system adopted last year at Aleppo, when I was with Said Pasha, was this: some one, a Turkish officer, myself, or both, went and selected a site for a village; the inevitable remonstrances against this site were then promptly examined by the local authority and a decision come to. A site once decided on, the men of the proposed colony were then dispatched to it, their labour supplemented in cases by assistance from neighbouring villages. Their tools and implements, and a few pairs of oxen, and some other assistance were furnished to them by private charity. The villages were constructed on a simple but regular plan furnished by Said Pasha to the Superintendent, a military officer; the progress and completion of the village was reported. In that district, however, matters were on a small scale; here, I fear, neither the men, the funds, nor the energy or organization are forthcoming, though in case of any charitable assistance being given, it is then, in my humble opinion, the best course to follow.

Although the cry of "no room" is absurd, as there is ample room for four or five times its population in the Siwas Province, centuries of misrule, apathy, slovenly agriculture, destruction of forests, abuse of waterways, and want of communications have so ruined most of the country, that the formation of settlements *de novo* is beyond the capacity and resources of the Administration. The distributive system gives rise to endless remonstrances, complaints, and petitions, often ridiculous, for there is no district, however richly endowed with land, wood, and water, and sparsely

populated, that will allow there is room for refugees, but often well enough grounded. "Kochans" and "sennets," or title-deeds and terms of holdings, are matters for the Law Courts. Unfortunately, however, these as usual defer decisions, or perhaps give unjust ones. The plaintiffs apply to the Consulate, which is thus placed in the invidious position of either refusing its moral assistance in helping the plaintiffs to receive a decision, or of seeming to oppose the very desirable result of the establishment of the refugees. In one case (of some years back) the emigrants, Circassians, were assigned lands in a Christian district, but refused those assigned to them, and possessed themselves of the best arable lands in the centre, which border the small stream. The matter is still dragging, and the emigrants are in possession. In another case the refugees (from Kars) were divided for maintenance for a given time between the Moslem and Christian population of a small town, eighteen houses to be supported by the 700 Moslem families, thirteen by the 300 Christian families. Thirteen of the refugee families removed, and being artizans, established themselves elsewhere; the remaining five are the only charge on the Moslems, while the poorer Christian minority have the support of the others, described by them as wealthy, as a charge upon them the whole of this summer, and have to furnish them 65 kilés of wheat.

The Governor-General seems inclined to deal with the objections, frivolous or well-grounded, in an arbitrary manner, and no doubt his patience has been sorely tried, as no proposed settlement takes place without remonstrance on one side or other, often on both, and many of the objections I have heard were paltry ones, unworthy of attention. The state of the matter as far as I can learn is this: hardly any of the refugees have been really established even on the distributive system; in cases they are housed in new dwellings, in others in dwellings temporarily or permanently made over to them, seed has been furnished by the Government in some cases to be sown and reaped for them, but in others all this charge comes on the villagers. In no case that I have seen, though I believe there are such in Azizieh, are they actually in possession of their new holdings and in a way to cultivate them, and this question of assigning lands to all is one for definite solution before the winter, as well as that of housing those who are still wanderers or temporary sojourners.

I would venture to call your attention to the fact that my information on the subject consists principally of conclusions drawn from details that have come under my own observation, and that my general information on the matter is very meagre. The present Commissioner, Mehemet Ali, is not a man with whom, I feel sure, you would wish me to cultivate intimate relations. The theory of establishing emigrants is so simple, that naturally, with such fair speakers as the Turks, glowing accounts of how things are being and are to be done are given one. Without access to numbers and statistics, and a comprehensive statement as to the whole affair, and a verification by personal inspection, in places, of the accounts given, it is impossible to do more than guess at the state of the case. Much more than I imagine is possibly being done, though the habitual supineness and inertia of the Turks, taken in combination with what I have seen, leads me to fear otherwise. Something has, I believe, been done in Azizieh, and I am awaiting Captain Stewart's Report. If you are anxious that your representative here should take a more active interest in the matter, I would respectfully suggest that you would use your influence to get a new Commissioner appointed. Although the appointment of local officials under the Vali was a step in the right direction, the Commission appears to me, as usual in Turkey, too stationary, and to content itself in a great measure with giving orders to the local Governors; this is where, in my humble opinion, the matter usually breaks down, these again delegating responsibility, and so on.

The Vali has already an enormous amount of business. If every petition from residents objecting to the advent of strangers, &c., must be discussed with him, only perhaps to prove in the end a groundless complaint, it will be a source of constant annoyance to him, an obstruction to the settlement of the refugees, and place the action of British influence in an undesirable light; for hitherto all the petitioners are Christian, though if the British Agent here were enabled to assist in the settlement, I imagine religious prejudice would not be sufficiently strong to deter Moslem applicants.

At present I feel powerless in the matter, and it is such a difficult one to deal with without men, money, resources, or organization, that it is, perhaps, better left alone; but if you are anxious that influence should be exerted actively towards effecting a settlement of these unhappy people, I would strongly urge the appointment of some official with whom matters could be discussed and satisfactory relations established.

Addendum.—Since writing the above the following has come to my notice. In one of the home mahiyyés is a Turkish village, Durdalu, of forty houses, distant 21 miles to the south-west. Last August fourteen families of refugées (Sunnus) were sent there; a year's grain rations were given them, the inhabitants found them houses, and have besides supplied them with 500 loads of chopped straw and 300 loads of wood gratis, and have sown 43 bushels of corn for them, also gratis. They are anxious for the new-comers to remain in the village, and can assign them unoccupied lands. The immigrants, on the other hand, wish to have a separate village, and have selected the middle of the farm-lands as a site. The inhabitants came with a petition; Mehemet Ali rushed at the presenter, threw him down stairs, cut his head open, and abused him in the vilest and grossest terms. The man refused compensation from Mehemet Ali. Yesterday the Vali tried to arrange the matter, and the man was sent or given £T.2; he is not willing to accept this or any money compensation, and is at present determined to prosecute. The money is to be returned to-day in the presence of witnesses. I have promised, if the man prosecutes, to watch the case, and do my best for justice on the spot; and, if it miscarries, to report the matter very strongly. The assault was made and its concomitant foul abuse delivered in the presence of very numerous witnesses; blood flowed—an important point, I believe, according to Turkish law. The attempt of the Vali to arrange matters, saying "it was a shame for the petitioner to quarrel with one of the first men of the vilayet," was also in the presence of numerous witnesses, the Cadi, Council, &c. Comment from me is unnecessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 19.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 171.) *Therapia, July 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN execution of your Lordship's instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 192 of the 1st instant, I called on his Beatitude the Armenian Patriarch, and informed him privately and verbally that his letter containing a petition addressed to Her Majesty by the Armenians of Van had been received, but that it is contrary to usage to lay petitions from foreigners before the Queen if not forwarded by Her Majesty's Diplomatic Representative.

I added that the facts stated would be borne in mind by Her Majesty's Government, and that he was aware how deep an interest was being taken by Her Majesty's Government in the future of the Armenians.

I have had several long interviews with his Beatitude before, and on this occasion we again discussed the Armenian question in much detail. He told me he had written a reply to the note of Abédine Pasha, communicated to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers, which latter note not unnaturally had offended him very much.

Mgr. Narces has since then sent a copy of his reply, officially, to the Ambassadors. I am unable to send your Lordship a copy of this document by this messenger, but it shall be dispatched by post, viâ Varna, on Friday.

In some respects this reply follows the same ground as that of my draft answer, which I submitted to your Lordship a few days ago, and which will be discussed by my colleagues this afternoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 20.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 29.)

(Private.) *July 15, 1880.*

My dear Granville,

I INCLOSE the first draft of my proposed reply to the Porte about Armenia. You must look at the substance, not at the form, as I have written it with a special view of its being translatable into French. Tissot went over it with me this morning, and agrees with every word. It will, of course, admit of compression, though I am

not long on any point. My strong feeling is that the Powers cannot commit themselves to any plan until they know the real facts about the population. It would not do to build on a mistaken basis, and I feel sure that no one has sure ground. The Patriarch's figures are as exaggerated as those of the Porte on the other side. Again, how to deal with the Kurds, the nomad Kurds I mean? All must depend on the physical force of the two different races and religions. If the Armenians should be in a minority, it will be dangerous to give the same institutions which we should give if they were in a majority, dangerous to themselves.

The objection is the loss of time, occasioned by the census, which, however, should only be approximative.

The objection is, however, not so strong to my mind as that of proceeding on insufficient information. I should be glad of a telegram telling me whether, reserving your final judgment for a time, you nevertheless agree in the general spirit of the procedure I recommend.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) G. J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Draft of Mr. Goschen's Reply to the Porte on the Armenian Question.

REPLY shortly to the opening paragraphs, which state what the Sublime Porte has hitherto done.

The Powers are not unaware that two Commissions have been sent, but they fail to see that any result has been arrived at, nor has the Porte communicated to the Powers the necessary information on the subject, as stipulated in Article LXI of the Berlin Treaty.

With regard to the changes made in the administration of justice, there is no evidence to show that an improvement has been effected. On the contrary, the reports made to the Consuls of Her Britannic Majesty's Government are to the effect that the present situation as regards securing justice, either in civil or in criminal cases, is as bad as, if not worse, than it has ever been.

As regards the gendarmerie and police, the note states that the Porte has charged several special officers to present Projects of Law on these institutions, but the Powers have no knowledge of such Projects of Law, nor does the Porte allege that they have been presented.

The Powers cannot admit that the note of the Porte disposes in any way of the complaints made by them.

It would be unnecessary to comment on the absence of any real efforts in the past if the note now received conveyed the impression that the Porte realized the actual situation and its obligations under the Treaty of Berlin.

The language in which the Sublime Porte speaks of the crimes committed, or alleged to be committed, in the provinces under consideration, shows that they do not recognize the degree of anarchy which exists, which, if permitted to continue, would seem likely to destroy the population of vast districts.

The Powers also observe that no proposal is made by the Porte to deal at once in a vigorous and exceptional manner with the Kurdish bands, which in many parts of the provinces inhabited by Armenians are rendering life and property insecure.

Their excesses, it is feared, cannot be checked by the simple action of the common law, and measures should be taken in anticipation of a reformed gendarmerie to hold the Kurds in check.

The Porte should remember that under Article LXI the Sublime Porte specially engages to guarantee the security of these provinces against the Kurds, but no such guarantee is proposed in the note.

Again, in the Article in question, the Porte engages to introduce reforms, which are required by the local wants, in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians.

In place of such reforms specially adapted to the local wants of these provinces a general Project is offered, in which none of the local wants of the Armenian population seem to have been taken into special account.

The Powers will see with pleasure the introduction of reforms into all parts of the Turkish Empire, but they are especially concerned to see that effect is given to the engagements of the Treaty of Berlin, and they cannot accept as a fulfilment

of that promise any project which does not realize reforms specially adapted to the provinces named in the Treaty.

The main peculiarity of these provinces is the predominance of a Christian population over large areas of the territory thus included. If this predominance is not recognized where it exists, no real reforms will be carried out.

It is assumed that the Sublime Porte sees in the constitution of the Communes (Administration), as described in the note, the means of creating administrative units, in which the great majority of the inhabitants will belong to the same religion. Yet it is not said that such a principle will be followed in grouping the villages.

It is satisfactory that the Mayor (Administrateur) of the Commune is to belong to the religion of the majority, but the absence of a similar provision in the case of the higher functionaries conclusively proves that the "besoins locaux" of these special provinces have not been taken into consideration.

The principle of equality is not developed, and the declaration that the Ottoman Government has already admitted to public offices capable and honest persons, without distinction of creed, and will henceforward give a wider application to this principle, is extremely vague. The Armenians contend that in the provinces where they exist in very large numbers there is scarcely a single Armenian functionary, and it might be possible for the Porte to appoint a Christian Governor-General without in the slightest degree giving greater security that the Armenian element will meet with justice and equality of treatment.

Measures of a much broader character than those proposed are evidently necessary to carry out the engagement of the Treaty of Berlin.

In view of the general inadequacy of the proposed reforms, it is perhaps scarcely necessary to comment on apparent defects in the Project itself, but the following observations present themselves:—

Even the Administrators of the small Communes are to be Government functionaries, nominated by the Central authority from among the elected members of the village council, instead of being elected by the council or the community. The principle of centralization is thus retained in the smallest administrative unit.

Again, as regards the gendarmerie of the Commune, it does not appear to be distinguished from the provincial gendarmerie, either in its recruiting, in its payment, or in any other feature, except that it is under the orders of the Commune and not of the province. It is not recruited locally amongst the inhabitants belonging to the majority in creed, and no guarantees are given that it would be a distinctively local force. Nor does the provincial gendarmerie correspond in any special way to the local wants of the particular provinces, the provision that the officers and soldiers will be chosen among all classes of the subjects of the Empire being again of the vaguest character.

The value of the provision as regards the Court of Assize will depend on its constitution, with regard to which no details are given. Looking to the Armenian character of some of the provinces, special provisions with regard to their representation among the Judges seem necessary.

The paragraph in the note relating to a certain sum to be set aside for local purposes, in connection with schools and public works, is not clearly expressed, but it would appear to include a financial principle of some value.

The Powers understand it to mean that the taxes will be divided into two branches: the one branch, including the customs and salt tax, will be applied to Imperial purposes; the other, general revenues of the vilayet, will be applied, in the first instance, to meet the administrative service of the vilayet: of the balance a portion would be retained for local purposes, and the remainder remitted to Constantinople.

If this is the correct interpretation, the proposal corresponds to Article 23 of the new "Projet de Loi" now under examination for European Turkey. So far as it establishes the principle that the provincial expenditure is a first charge on a portion of the taxes, the reform is valuable, but it would require to be surrounded by the same safeguards as are now being elaborated by the Commission.

The Powers have expressed their sense of the inadequate extent to which the principle of equality has been carried out; the principle of decentralization, which is especially necessary in provinces inhabited by a population, of which large numbers are of a different creed from that of the Central and Imperial authority, is carried out in an equally unsatisfactory manner.

No effectual reforms are possible if the position of the Governors-General of the provinces is not thoroughly changed. It is true that the note states that their duties

will be extended and their functions guaranteed, but such vague assurances leave the question quite unsolved.

Unless the increase of power and responsibility, which is absolutely indispensable to a proper discharge of the duties of Governors-General, is clearly defined, as also the guarantees which will relieve them from the constant apprehension of dismissal, no opinion can be formed of the efficacity of reforms. It is clear that the Governors-General should have some clear understanding as to the period during which they will hold office, and they must be set free from the constant interference with the minutest details of their administration, which has hitherto utterly paralyzed their action.

This increased independence and power is especially necessary in the case of provinces inhabited by the Armenians.

The Powers are therefore distinctly of opinion that the plans of the Government are inadequate to their object, and that far greater attention to the local peculiarities of the province in question, a greater development of the two great principles of equality and decentralization, more effective arrangements for the police, and more energetic plans of protection against the Kurds, and a defined arrangement as regards the tenure and the functions of the Governors-General, will alone satisfy the rights and expectations created by Article LXI of the Berlin Treaty.

The Sublime Porte seek to diminish the bearing "portée" of this Article by quoting the alleged percentage of Armenians and Christians among the whole population. The percentage quoted in the note differs so widely from that given by other authorities, that the Powers are quite unable to accept it as accurate. How wide is the difference between various estimates will appear by the inclosed figures of population supplied by the Armenian Patriarch. The note of the Porte only gives the percentage; the Powers would wish to receive the actual figures on which the percentage is calculated.

In view of the extraordinary divergence in the various estimates, the Powers believe that it is essential that an approximative census should be taken by an impartial Commission of the respective numbers of Christians and Mussulmans in the province in question, but it is necessary that this should be done with the utmost rapidity. They have reason to believe that it could be accomplished in three months. The Commission should be of a neutral character, and the Government of would gladly lend their aid in its formation. It must be distinctly understood that the Porte would accept the result of the census, and frame the organization of the provinces in question accordingly. It will probably be necessary if local wants are to be equitably met that the geographical limits of the various vilayets should be re-cast.

In the meantime, it is absolutely necessary that progress should be made in other directions where the security of life and property depend on immediate reforms. Proceedings should at once be taken against the incursions of the Kurds. The proposed system of finance should be at once carried out. The gendarmerie might provisionally be placed on a more satisfactory footing, and above all, the Governors-General should at once be placed in a more secure and responsible position. The fact of an approximative census in the Armenian provinces being taken would be no excuse for delaying these urgent measures.

In conclusion, the Powers once more recall to the Porte that the reforms to be introduced into the provinces inhabited by the Armenians are by Treaty engagements to be adapted to local wants, and to be carried out under the supervision of the Powers.

No. 21.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 330.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 29, 1880, 2·20 P.M.

I CONCUR generally in terms of the draft of note on Armenian question inclosed in your letter of the 15th instant. I think you should be careful not to allow the census to be an excuse for delay. For a thorough census three months would not be sufficient; for a rough approximation it seems more than is necessary. Could not an estimate of the settled population sufficient for practical purposes be obtained in a month by reference to documents showing number of Mussulmans liable to conscription and number of Christian

paying exemption tax? Perhaps Major Trotter would suggest some similar means of computing the Kurds and Nestorians if their numbers cannot be arrived at by this means.

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 319.)

Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

IN your Excellency's despatch No. 140, Very Confidential, of the 13th instant you report a conversation which passed between you and Abédine Pasha on the subject of the Cyprus Convention. I approve the manner in which your Excellency called his attention to the failure of Turkey hitherto to introduce into Asia Minor the reforms to which she is pledged by that instrument, and I shall be glad if you will take further opportunities of discussing the matter with Abédine Pasha, who appears to be personally in favour of employing English officers with full powers to improve the administration of the districts referred to.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 320.)

Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

THE representations which your Excellency made to Abédine Pasha on the 12th instant, with regard to the mischievous nature of recent Turkish appointments, and the complete apathy displayed by the present Ministry on every subject connected with reform, are entirely in accordance with the views of Her Majesty's Government, and I approve the language used by your Excellency on that occasion, as reported in your despatch No. 144, Confidential, of the 13th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 326.)

Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE had under my consideration the draft reply to the Turkish note on the Armenian question, which your Excellency has drawn up in conjunction with your colleague and forwarded to me in your despatch of the 15th instant, and I have to inform you that I concur generally in its terms.

In calling upon the Porte, however, to take a census of the respective numbers of Christians and Mussulmans in the Armenian district, I consider that care should be taken not to allow the necessity of a census to be made to be an excuse for delay in introducing the reforms which are so urgently required. The period of three months, allowed by the draft note before me, would be less than sufficient to allow of a thorough census being obtained, but it appears to me to be more than necessary for a rough approximation, and I would suggest to your Excellency whether, by reference to documents showing the number of Mussulmans liable to conscription and the number of Christians who pay the exemption tax, an estimate of the settled population sufficient for practical purposes might not be drawn up in one month.

With regard to the best means of computing the numbers of the Kurds and Nestorians, I would suggest that your Excellency should consult Colonel Trotter, who might perhaps recommend a better place for obtaining their numbers than the one which I have indicated.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 173.)

Therapia, July 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE now the honour to inclose a copy of the letter from the Armenian Patriarch, to which I alluded in my despatch No. 171 of the 20th instant.

Your Lordship will observe that on some very important points the draft answer which I have prepared to the note of the Porte agrees with the suggestions of his Beatitude.

The Patriarch firstly points out that the Porte appear to have overlooked the point that the Treaty of Berlin contemplated special arrangements for the provinces inhabited by Armenians, whereas the reply of the Porte ignores any difference between those provinces and the rest of the Turkish Asiatic provinces.

Your Lordship will remember that I dwelt strongly on this point throughout the draft answer in question.

His Beatitude next complains of the tone which pervades the note, and the attempt to explain away the deplorable state of things which has made the interference of the Powers necessary. This attitude I have also taken up in the draft reply.

With regard to the statistics of population, the Patriarch naturally attacks them, and he takes the opportunity of supplying his own figures again to all the Embassies. I remain of the opinion that no safe course can be adopted unless means are devised to test the accuracy of the figures respectively supplied on each side.

Your Lordship has instructed me in your despatch No. 243 to send copies of the answer of the Porte to Her Majesty's Consuls in Anatolia. I think it desirable to send them also the figures supplied by the Patriarch, as they may be able to form some general opinion as to their correctness. Of course the opinion can only be very general, but in some districts it may be possible to procure valuable information at once. Your Lordship will remember, for instance, that Colonel Wilson armed himself with very full statistics in the case of the Sivas Vilayet.

With regard to the actual project of reforms, the letter of the Patriarch is conceived in such vague phrases that but little advantage is to be derived from it in elucidating the problem to be solved. I perfectly agree with him, that secularization and decentralization are necessary in order to meet the real wants of the Armenians. I have endeavoured to point out in the draft reply in what respects decentralization should be carried out. The secularization demanded must clearly be given through the reforms to be made in the Tribunals.

The Project of Organization to which his Beatitude alludes is the same as that which I believe I forwarded to your Lordship some time ago, but of which I inclose another copy. It was not signed. I entirely concur in the views which that Project contains as to the tenure of office of the Governors-General, and, as your Lordship is aware, I believe no point to be more important.

Some of the other points of the Project are embodied in the reforms enumerated in the note of the Porte, though in an unsatisfactory manner. Others are touched in my draft reply, but I do not consider that the time has come for a formal proposal of definite reforms on the part of the Powers. The first step clearly is to show the insufficiency of the remedies proposed by the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Monsigneur Nerces to Mr. Goschen.

Constantinople, le [illegible] *Juillet,* 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

EN lisant la réponse de la Sublime Porte au troisième point de la note identique des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, j'ai été péniblement surpris de voir le Gouvernement Impérial présenter la question Arménienne dans des termes qui me semblent tout-à-fait contraires à l'esprit et à la lettre de l'Article LXI.

La Sublime Porte même ignore dans sa note l'existence de cette clause, qui prescrit formellement des réformes spéciales aux provinces habitées par les Arméniens et en faveur de ces derniers, considérés comme une race et un peuple distincts, dont les Hautes Parties Contractantes se sont expressément proposé d'améliorer la condition.

Il m'est donc impossible de croire qu'une semblable interprétation de l'Article LXI qui équivaut presque à la négation d'une des stipulations essentielles du Traité puisse être admise par les Puissances.

J'aurais été heureux d'autre part de découvrir dans ce document une preuve non équivoque de la bonne volonté du Gouvernement Impérial d'exécuter sincèrement les réformes indispensables pour empêcher le renouvellement des méfaits et des déprédations continuelles impunément commises en Arménie; mais la note semble se préoccuper surtout d'amoindrir l'importance de ces faits et de les réduire à des proportions telles, que s'ils ne s'étaient produits au grand jour, et s'ils n'étaient confirmés par des autorités dont personne ne saurait contester la bonne foi, on serait tenté de se demander par quelle illusion les Puissances ont été amenées à en faire l'objet d'une stipulation solennelle du Traité.

Indépendamment de ces autorités qui ne peuvent être taxées de partialité, ni pour la Sublime Porte ni pour les Arméniens, je ne crains pas d'en appeler à l'appui de ces faits, au signataire même de la note, à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères qui, lors de sa mission en Arménie, a jugé nécessaire d'adopter et de proposer au Gouvernement Impérial des mesures aussi sages qu'énergiques, dans le but d'amener la punition des plus grands coupables.

Tout en relevant l'esprit qui paraît avoir présidé à la rédaction de la note, je ne puis passer sous silence la dénomination de Kurdistan appliquée pour la première fois, si je ne me trompe, dans un document émané de la Sublime Porte aux provinces Arméniennes, et les affirmations de la note concernant les chiffres comparatifs de la population de ces provinces.

Votre Excellence connaît déjà le Tableau comparatif du nombrement de la population de quelques provinces que j'ai eu l'honneur de lui soumettre. Sans avoir l'exactitude mathématique d'un recensement régulier, ce Tableau est dressé sur des données puisées à des sources dignes de foi, et qui sont conformes, à peu de choses près, à ce qui a été vérifié sur les lieux par vos Agents Consulaires. Selon moi, en ce qui concerne les Arméniens, on est resté plutôt au-dessous qu'au-dessus des chiffres réels.

Pour réduire à sa juste valeur l'affirmation de la note, affirmation si contradictoire avec les chiffres de la statistique du Patriarchat, il me suffirait d'opposer à l'affirmation officielle d'aujourd'hui les données non moins officielles des almanachs Turcs édités pendant une série d'années, dans la capitale et dans les provinces avec l'autorisation de la Sublime Porte. En comparant les chiffres officiels d'aujourd'hui avec les chiffres officiels publiés autrefois, votre Excellence constatera un écart tel, qu'il lui sera difficile, j'en suis convaincu, de ne pas penser que les chiffres contenus dans la note, et recueillis probablement à la hâte, sont plus conformes à la thèse soutenue dans ce document qu'à la réalité des faits.

Quant aux réformes proposées par la Sublime Porte, elles sont loin de répondre au but que le Traité de Berlin a eu pour objet de réaliser en ce qui concerne les Arméniens. Ce qu'on propose, en somme, c'est la commune instituée dans des conditions qui la placeraient plus que jamais sous la dépendance de l'autorité centrale. Ce serait là un système de centralisation, qui, tout en rendant illusoire le mode d'élection décrété déjà plus d'une fois par la Sublime Porte, et toujours resté inappliqué, laisserait debout toutes les institutions contre lesquelles on réclame.

Les Arméniens, forts de la haute sollicitude que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, mon auguste Souverain, a daigné en maintes circonstances m'exprimer en faveur de ma nation, et des sympathies toutes particulières dont ils ont été l'objet de la part des Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, ont droit d'espérer que la Sublime Porte voudra bien tenir compte de ces sentiments, et instituer en Arménie un ordre de choses de nature à satisfaire aux véritables besoins locaux et à leurs justes demandes.

Ce que demandent les Arméniens c'est la sécularisation et la décentralisation de l'Administration des provinces Arméniennes—deux conditions sans lesquelles une bonne Administration conformes aux spéculations du Traité de Berlin ne pourra jamais être réalisé dans ces provinces.

Je ne puis m'empêcher, en terminant, d'exprimer à votre Excellence ma profonde conviction que les intérêts des Arméniens et ceux de la Sublime Porte militent également en faveur du Projet d'Organisation ci-inclus, que j'avais déjà eu l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence, et dont je n'ai point cessé de recommander l'adoption à la Sublime Porte.

Je vous prie, M. l'Ambassadeur, de vouloir bien communiquer les observations qui précèdent aux Représentants des autres Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

J'adresse les vœux les plus ardents à la Divine Providence pour qu'Elle daigne bénir la tâche humanitaire et civilisatrice que les Hautes Puissances, de concert avec Sa Majesté le Sultan, ont entreprise pour régénérer l'Orient, et je saisis, &c.

Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie,
(Signé) NERCÈS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Résumé of Reforms asked for by Armenians.

LES Arméniens ne visent point à une existence politique; ils demandent des libertés civiles, des institutions qui garantissent leur sécurité, leurs biens et leur honneur: leur droit à la vie, enfin. On ne peut pas oublier que toute réforme serait vaine si les fonctionnaires appelés à la réaliser ne sont pas convenablement choisis. La condition essentielle de tout succès pour les institutions qu'on créerait, réside dans la nomination d'un Gouverneur-Général pris en dehors de la classe privilégiée, qui en raison de ces traditions religieuses et administratives a toujours été hostile à l'esprit moderne. En un mot, il faudrait choisir le Gouverneur-Général parmi les Chrétiens, et puisqu'il s'agit de l'Arménie, ce choix devra tomber naturellement sur un Arménien.

Mais cette condition serait illusoire dans l'application si le Gouverneur était placé chaque jour sous le coup d'une destitution inattendue. Il faut donc que le Gouverneur soit assuré de conserver ses fonctions pendant une période de six à sept ans et choisi dans les mêmes conditions que pour le Liban. Le Gouverneur-Général devra également être investi de l'autorité nécessaire, pour la réalisation des réformes sous sa responsabilité.

Quelles seraient les réformes?

1. *Assurer la sécurité matérielle.*—Jusqu'ici rien n'étant plus facile pour les Commandants des troupes que de réprimer les tribus sauvages; pourtant rien n'a été fait. Sont-ce les moyens ou la volonté qui ont fait défaut? Toujours est-il que pour mettre la sécurité à l'abri de tout danger il sera plus sage et même tout naturel de confier aux populations elles-mêmes le soin de se protéger. De là, la nécessité d'une gendarmerie recrutée indistinctement de Musulmans et de Chrétiens, mais prise dans la province, suivant un système facile à déterminer. Cette gendarmerie serait placée dans les ordres du Gouverneur-Général, et commandée par un officier Européen.

Les Commandants des troupes en garnison dans la province doivent obéir au Gouverneur pour toutes les mesures de sécurité publique et aider la gendarmerie.

2. *Assurer la justice.*—On n'y arrivera qu'en la sécularisant; c'est-à-dire en promulguant un Code Civil et un Code Criminel élaborés conformément aux principes modernes de la justice, en décrétant d'autre part que les Tribunaux du Chéri ne se chargeront des contestations entre Musulmans; enfin, en réformant la composition des Tribunaux appelés à appliquer la justice aux Chrétiens ou dans les questions mixtes; et surtout d'abus de pouvoir. Cette organisation ne peut être entourée de trop de garanties. C'est le régulateur de toute Administration.

Dans cette organisation il serait indispensable de laisser au Gouverneur-Général la faculté d'appeler à son aide l'élément étranger au moins pour la formation d'une Cour Suprême.

3. L'assiette de l'impôt foncier sera changée. La dîme et le mode de perception seront abolis. L'impôt sera prélevé sur l'étendue et la qualité de la terre.

4. La province aura le droit de s'imposer et de se créer des ressources pour les services spéciaux de la province: tels que les services de la gendarmerie, de la justice, des écoles de toutes les communautés, des établissements sacrés de toutes les religions, des travaux publics, et autres.

Le mode à suivre par la province pour relever ces ressources destinées au service de sa propre administration, sera à peu près identique à ce qui est admis pour la Province de la Roumélie Orientale, à cela près que le Conseil Général appelé à voter et à répartir l'impôt nécessaire aux différents services, n'aura que cette seule et unique attribution.

Pour ce qui est des impôts généraux du Trésor Impérial, la province ne revendique aucun privilège. Elle les acquittera comme de règle, sauf la part à faire sur le revenu pour les besoins locaux.

No. 26.

Consul Billiotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 18. Political.)

Trebizond, July 9, 1880.

My Lord,

IN reporting that there are daily demands for money from the Central Government at Constantinople I only state a fact which is widely known and which is not an exception for this province. The Valis, if they want to keep their places, must use their best endeavours to satisfy their superiors in this respect, and it is really wonderful to witness how, in spite of the straitened circumstances of the populations, they manage to collect considerable sums of money. The non-compliance of a conscientious Governor to the orders of the Porte would only deprive him of his post without averting the evil from the populations, for the Government would always find a Vali willing to carry out their instructions.

I consider it, however, my duty to enter into some details on the subject of uninterrupted demand for money from Constantinople as connected with this province, and which may apply as well to most, if not all, other vilayets.

About two years since important arrears of taxation, amounting to 60,000,000 piastres, if I am not mistaken, were owing by the inhabitants of this province to the Public Treasury. These arrears were due by two distinct classes—the rich, who had evaded payment owing to their influential position; and the poor, who had not the means of paying.

When Sirri Pasha, the present Governor-General, was appointed here, he directed his attention to the collection of the first category of arrears, and in so doing he was only correcting an injustice which should have never been allowed to take place. But when the sums due by the rich were cashed, as the demand for money from Constantinople was as pressing as before, Sirri Pasha had, on his side, to exercise a pressure on the poorer classes, who, from time to time, have had to pay whatever they could.

However, the orders from Constantinople continuing uninterrupted, these classes, after having exhausted all their resources in order to comply with the repeated requests of the Porte, have been under the necessity to resort to measures which lead to their utter ruin.

They borrow money on the following conditions:—For 100 piastres which they require they are given half in cash, bearing an interest of 18 per cent., and half in goods worth, at the market prices, 40 piastres, but which are valued to them for 50 piastres, that is with an increase of 25 per cent.; they, therefore, pay 34 per cent. to obtain only half the sum they require in coin. But this high rate does not yet represent the actual price they disburse for ready cash, for the sums borrowed never remain during a twelvemonth in the hands of the peasants, whose wants usually begin towards the latter part of the agricultural season. Those who borrow money at the present moment on the terms stated above have to return it on the gathering of the crops, that is in one or two months. However, taking four months as the average time during which the peasant enjoys the values lent to him, he pays in reality more than 100 per cent.

I am assured by most competent persons that the product of the coming harvest of several of the agriculturists will hardly cover their debts. The more their liabilities increase the less security they offer to money-lenders, who will probably augment their rates of interest.

It should not be believed that the system of allowing taxes to remain unpaid, which is detrimental to the Government, is in any way advantageous to the poorer classes of the population. This I pointed out in a Report inclosed in a Confidential despatch of the 29th February, 1876, the very words of which I may as well quote here.

"The poorer classes of the population have never at their command the whole sum due for taxation at the time appointed for its collection. They give whatever money they have been able to put together, and afterwards, whenever they are pressed for further payments, they hand to the collecters the few piastres in their possession. In most cases those instalments, whether by tacit consent, in order to avoid pressure, or otherwise, are not accounted for, and in the long run the taxpayers of the above-mentioned category disburse the total amount due by them, or nearly so, without diminishing their debt towards the Government. The larger sums handed to the collectors being placed to the unbalanced accounts, to however remote periods they may belong, a moment must arrive when the poorer classes owe arrears beyond their means, and that was the case this year" (1875).

Owing to that state of things a Firman had been issued in the year 1875 remitting the arrears of taxation to such of the inhabitants who had not the means to meet their liabilities. I am, however, under the impression that this Ordinance remained a dead letter; for it must have been impossible that the sums due to the Government should have accumulated within the course of two or three years to 60,000,000 piastres.

It is easy to understand how crushing it must have been for the poorer classes to reimburse long-standing arrears of taxation in the exceptionally distressing circumstances under which they were lately placed.

The claim of the Government under this head may be sacred, but the condition of the inhabitants should also be taken into consideration, especially when it has been impaired by the action of the same Government.

While the populations were impoverished by the late war, a bad harvest, and an unusually severe winter, the Porte withdrew the caïmé and the copper coin, depreciated the silver currency, and saddled the populations with the heavy burden of immigrants. The Beys and Agas were allowed to continue their acts of oppression and spoliation, and the Government officials to perpetrate the most shameful extortions. No measures of any kind are adopted to remedy the present state of things or to promote the future welfare of the inhabitants, but all the energy of the Porte is directed towards the collection of money.

Of oppression, extortion, and want of public security I have spoken at some length in preceding Reports; I shall, therefore, only say a few words on the effect of the late financial measures adopted by the Government.

I have been assured by the principal Christian and Mussulman merchants in this town that the loss sustained by the poorer classes in this province on caïmés and copper coin is no less than 80 per cent. Peasants, especially, had treasured up paper money, in which they placed almost confidence. It is reckoned that the average paid for it was 1 lira for 4 caïmés of 100 piastres each, but taken with panic on its being depreciated, they exchanged their paper currency at upwards of 12 caïmés for £T. 1.

Whatever monetary values remained to them after this catastrophe they converted into beshliks, which, in their turn, were reduced to half their former value.

Therefore the real loss which has accrued to the poorer classes is 90 per cent., from which, however, must be deducted what they possessed in gold. But, unluckily for them, they hardly had any coin of this metal.

I sincerely believe myself that there is no exaggeration in the above statement, which exactly corresponds with my own observations.

It is lucky for the men in power at Constantinople that they have to do with very submissive and patient populations, and it is, no doubt, the character of the inhabitants which emboldens their Rulers to deal with them as they do. But there is a limit to the most enduring longanimity, and the dissatisfaction in the provinces has reached an extent which, perhaps, is not exactly realized in the capital.

A sad case which occurred lately is an illustration of the despair to which some people have been driven.

A poor negro, a liberated slave, had contrived, after years of hardship and privation, to put together 200*l.*, which secured for him comfort for the rest of his life. The withdrawal of the caïmés, of the copper coin, and lastly the depreciation of the silver currency, having deprived him of his hard-earned savings, he decided to put an end to his life, which had lost all its charms. He repaired to the principal entrance at the Seraglio armed with a cutlass, and there deliberately cut open his belly. His self-inflicted wound was so ghastly that his intestines dropped on the ground, but he lived long enough to state the motive of his act of despair.

The future prospects of the poorer classes are only trouble and misery, but in the present mood of the Porte it is hardly to be expected that even at this juncture it will discontinue to enforce the payment of the few arrears of taxation that may still be due by the populations. Money is required to satisfy the endless wants of the Sultan, and to enable the Pashas in power at Constantinople to pocket their salaries.

I have heard from a very trustworthy source that a few months ago very pressing orders were sent to Erzeroum to collect 15,000*l.* for the purpose of providing food for the army. But when they were known to be ready the Vali was directed to forward them immediately to the Palace. The Trebizond Treasury has at the present moment orders to provide the Palace with a further sum of 10,000*l.*, together with 5,000*l.* for the Chief Eunuch.

In order to get rid of creditors, the Porte furnishes them with Treasury bonds ("havalés") payable in the provinces, but at the same time pressing instructions are given to transmit to Constantinople all the available money.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

The unpaid havalés due by the Sandjak, not the Vilayet, of Trebizond amount to 180,000*l.* The total bonds of this description drawn on the Treasury of this province is unknown to me, but I should not be astonished if the aggregate sum which they represent should not be far from 1,000,000 liras.

Besides, part of the arrears of the salaries of the Pashas at Constantinople are reimbursed to them in the provinces. Lately 8,000*l.* have been paid to them at Trebizond. Of these Osman Pasha received 2,500*l.*, and Dervish Pasha 750*l.* The latter sent one of his Aides-de-camp with orders to get anything he could lay his hands on, if cash was not available, and he actually received Government wheat and Indian corn, which he converted into money.

In ordinary circumstances, the payment of arrears of salaries is but a matter of course; it becomes, however, a question of quite a different nature when it happens that the functionaries who are reimbursed are Pashas of superior rank, getting comparatively high pay, and, in most cases, being in the enjoyment of private fortunes, while subordinate officials, who are underpaid and have no other means of subsistence, as well as army officers, soldiers, policemen, and Government pensioners, do not receive the meagre allowance to which they are entitled.

Is it to be wondered if, under these circumstances, and with the great increase which has taken place on all the necessaries of life since the late war, corruption should be on the increase?

It was lately discovered that an "onbashi" (corporal) of zaptiehs, who had been fifteen years in the service and enjoyed the best reputation, was the accomplice of a notorious burglar. He is in prison awaiting his trial. Last week two individuals accused of murder were allowed to escape from prison. The gaoler and a zaptieh, who seem to have received bribes, are under arrest. Only a few days since five officers of the reserve, a Major and four Captains, who are stationed at Surmenah, broke open the Government chest to get their salaries, which they could not obtain otherwise. They had to receive 12,000 piastres, but found only 6,000 piastres in the Government safe. They are to be tried.

All these individuals might have been honest, and might have never committed the offences for which they are liable to punishment, had they not found themselves in the critical circumstances under which they were placed by the inadequacy of their respective salaries, and the irregularity with which they were issued to them.

The connivance of zaptiehs with thieves, the escape of prisoners from gaol or from condemnation by means of bribery, the extortions of subordinate officials, are old-standing evils, which, besides encouraging crime, drain the resources of the populations. Those of the Government are partly absorbed by the corrupt practices of Pashas in high stations, who give the bad example to their subordinates.

Within the last twelvemonth there have been in this province two striking examples of corruption, which, far from bringing punishment on the culprits, have led to their promotion.

One of the cases was that of a Mutessarif, whose corrupt practices had so far attracted the attention of the Porte that the latter gave orders to Yussuf Pasha, ex-Governor-General of this province, and subsequently to Said Pasha, to make an inquiry into his conduct. But there were in the hands of the Porte so evident proofs of the culpability of the functionary in question, that both Valis declined to interfere, as the object of the Government only appeared to be to shift on them the responsibility of divulging the fraud. The second case concerned a military commander, into whose financial administration an inquiry was instituted by order of the Porte. Frauds on a large scale were detected; but, for good motives, the Commissioner charged with the investigation hesitated for a time as to the course he should follow. However, happening to be an honest man, he exposed the facts in their nakedness, and in consequence of subsequent orders from Constantinople placed under arrest the subordinate officers who were compromised in the frauds perpetrated by their superior. But while they were conveyed, as prisoners, to the capital, one of the Sultan's yachts was entering the port of Trebizond, and embarking the military commander in question, who was called to very high functions in the Palace.

How can ameliorations of any kind be expected to take place in Turkey so long as the Sovereign's sanction, or order, is given for the adoption of measures of the kind of those described above?

In a Report on the condition of this province in 1875 (inclosure in Confidential despatch of the 29th February, 1876), I stated, in speaking of reforms and of the measures to adopt:—

"But even this is not sufficient. The greatest evil, as the Mussulmans themselves

consider, lies in the uncontrolled power which is now vested in the hands of the Sultan, and which not only is not inherent, but, on the contrary, is in opposition with the religious laws. A reform in this respect, far from awakening fanaticism, would, on the contrary, be hailed with the greatest satisfaction by all classes of Mussulmans, who, with the exception of a minority, are suffering as much as Christians from the present state of things."

The feeling embodied in the above paragraph, and which at that time was whispered with the greatest caution by a very limited number of Mussulmans, is now publicly commented upon by all of them, and they go so far as to say that there is no hope of redemption for them, not only so long as the present Sultan is on the throne, but so long as the present dynasty is allowed to reign. They even reproach Europe with permitting the continuance of the present state of things, and consider that, if the Sultan does not want to yield to persuasion, force should be used against him.

Any measure tending to this end will be supported by the public opinion of the whole Mussulman population, whose sympathy and confidence, if now wavering in some respects, will then be enlisted without reserve in favour of Europe.

In conclusion, I beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that the Porte, which has always been putting forward the pretext of want of money for carrying out the promised reforms, has been since the war in the receipt of an income far superior to any that it may ever hope to collect without a complete change in the present Administration. I ground my assertion on what took place in this province, and which cannot be an exception, but may rather be taken as the general fact in Anatolia.

As I have already stated, 60,000,000 piastres of arrears were due to the Government, and have been nearly entirely collected within the last two years. As the usual revenue derived from this vilayet amounts to about 40,000,000 piastres, the income of the Porte during the last two years has been equal to the usual revenue of three and a half years. If it has been impossible to execute reforms when the Government had this extra resource, it is not likely that, being now deprived of it, they will be in a better position for so doing.

The example of Cyprus, where the revenues have increased from 14,000,000 to 55,000,000 piastres, is an evident proof of the advantage that may accrue to Turkey from her finances being administered by Europeans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 27.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 20. Political.) *Trebizond, July 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian postal steamer "Oleg," which called here on the 5th instant, had on board about 1,000 Laz emigrants in destination to Ordoo, and that the Government steamer "Assyr" landed this week, in the same place, another batch of about 1,500 Lazes, and as many at Oonlah.

The landing of these immigrants by the "Assyr," in this province, took place against the intentions of the local authorities, who protested against the proceeding of the Captain.

The Government transport "Mevludi Nusret" departed this week from Batoum, with as many as 8,000 Lazes on board (a rather exaggerated number, I believe), in destination to Brussa and Ismid.

The "Assyr" cleared this port two days since to embark more emigrants from Batoum to Constantinople.

Those who have already departed belong to the districts situated on both banks of the Tsorook, between Artwin and Madjkhal.

Many are proceeding overland to Joppa, from whence the "Assyr," just before her last trip to Ordoo, conveyed nearly 3,000 of them to Ismid.

The whole Laz population in the districts ceded to Russia seem bent on emigrating before winter.

While there is a general exodus of the Lazes from Russia to Turkey, a current of emigration in the opposite direction takes place, but on a very reduced scale.

Batches of from ten to twenty families frequently leave in country boats from the coast between Kerassond and Samsoun. It would seem that the inhabitants of the country round Soukoum Kaleh do not accept with pleasure these Christian immigrants, the last arrived of whom were directed to other points on the Russian coast.

A few days ago the Governor-General of Trebizond received a telegram from General Kamaroff, notifying to him that the Russian Government had given orders not to admit Christian emigrants from Turkey, and begging him to prevent their departure for Russia.

I understand, however, that these emigrants find the means to be received in Russia, by giving a guarantee to the effect that they have not the intention to settle there permanently, but that they are only seeking for temporary employment.

Last Sunday arrived at Batoum a sailing-vessel with 400 Abazians on board, returning from the vicinity of Ineboli and Sinope to Soukoum Kaleh and Isumshin, from whence they had departed during the late war.

Batches of from fifty to sixty Abazians, belonging to the same immigration, return from time to time from Turkey to their native country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 28.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 340.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.*

I APPROVE the representations your Excellency has made to the Turkish Ministers and the steps you have taken to obtain further evidence with regard to the conduct of Mehemet Ali, of Sivas, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 139 of the 12th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 342.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Government are much impressed by a Report from Major Trotter, No. 17, Confidential, of the 1st June, depicting the deplorable condition of the Vilayet of Diarbekir.

Your Excellency's attention will no doubt have been drawn to this Report, of which a copy was inclosed in his despatch No. 28 to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 30.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5, 1·42 P.M.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 5, 1880, 10·35 A.M.*

I HAVE at length procured cancelment of nomination of Mehemet Ali and three others on Sivas Council.

Chermside telegraphs commendable activity concerning refugees during last month in that vilayet.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 365.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1880, 7·15 P.M.*

YOURS No. 161.

I should wish you to express in a marked manner the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt that the nominations of Mehemet Ali and others on the Sivas Council have been cancelled, and that activity has been shown in regard to the refugees in that vilayet.

No. 32.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 354.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1880.*

I HAVE requested your Excellency by telegraph to express in a marked manner to the Porte the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt by your telegram No. 161 of yesterday that the nominations of Mehemet Ali and others on the Sivas Council have been cancelled, and that activity has been lately displayed in regard to the refugees in that vilayet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 33.

Consul Henderson to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Bitiass, Syria, July 20, 1880.*

IN submitting herewith to your Lordship the copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I have the honour to request that should your Lordship approve the steps I have taken to obtain reliable information in this matter, I should be allowed to charge the expense of my journey in my next quarterly account.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Bitiass, July 20, 1880.*

FROM time to time complaints have been made to me by the Armenians of the district of Gisser Schoghl of the ill-treatment and oppression to which they have been subjected, and of the impossibility of obtaining any redress for their wrongs at the hands of the Turkish authorities.

The Patriarch of Cilicia also addressed a note to me begging me to use my influence with the Vali to ameliorate in a certain degree the condition of his suffering co-religionists by procuring the removal of the Kaïmakam, who had since his appointment shown great animus against the Armenians.

I lost no time in urging Said Pasha to replace the Kaïmakam by a more capable and less unscrupulous official. His Excellency promised to do so, and named as his successor the Kaïmakam of Bazardjik, one of the most respectable and tolerant of the Kaïmakams of the vilayet.

I communicated this result to the Patriarch, who was greatly satisfied with it. The new Kaïmakam arrived at Aleppo on his way to his post, but the Vali on various pretexts delayed giving him his letter of appointment.

Further complaints had by this time reached me from Gisser Schoghl, and I pressed the Vali to fulfil the promise he had made to me. To my amazement Said

Pasha replied that it was true he had promised to remove the Kaïmakam, but that for certain reasons he had decided on maintaining him at his post, adding that he emphatically denied the ill-treatment of the Christians of that district.

I stated to his Excellency that the massacres of the Christians at Batak had been emphatically denied, that the outrages on the Christians at Zeitoun had been equally emphatically denied, and that his Excellency himself, by the strong remedial measures he had proposed and carried out regarding Zeitoun, showed too plainly that Lieutenant Chermside did not exaggerate when he officially reported that the state of Zeitoun was a disgrace to any Government and an outrage on humanity.

I endeavoured unsuccessfully to induce his Excellency to fulfil his promise to me in this matter, pointing out to him that I would be obliged to report to your Excellency his inexplicable conduct in a question on which depended the security and happiness of the Armenian population of the district referred to.

From the moment Sir Henry Layard quitted Constantinople without having obtained from the Sultan permission for his Excellency to return to the capital, as Sir Henry Layard had through me led him to expect, I have observed a very marked change in his attitude towards Her Majesty's Consulate. He has on several occasions observed to me that it would have been more advantageous for his own interests had he settled the Zeitoun troubles more in accordance with the feelings of the Sultan and of the fanatical and all-powerful party in the Palace. I little suspected, when he refused to keep faith with me in the removal of the Gisser Schoghl Kaïmakam, that he was even then giving effect to the wish that his policy should be shaped so as to conciliate the Sultan and his *entourage*.

Further appeals were made to me by the Christians of the district of Gisser Schoghl, and I came to the conclusion that it would be well that I should visit that district myself in order to obtain thoroughly trustworthy information for my report to your Excellency. I therefore made a tour in the district, the results of which I have now the honour to lay before your Excellency.

At Kneya, a village just outside the town of Gisser Schoghl, from whence many complaints had been made to me, I found the most deplorable religious animosity to prevail.

The Kaïmakam had ostentatiously supported one sect against the other, and I think it would be difficult to find a more glaring example of the evils resulting from the traditional policy of provincial subordinates in favouring one religious sect at the expense of the other. Instances were brought to my knowledge of insults having been publicly offered to the Armenian Bishop, of assaults openly committed on the Armenians while in the peaceful pursuit of their lawful calling, of their lands forcibly seized and appropriated, of their being thrown into prison on accusations of murder falsely preferred against them, and in no single case had their persecutors been brought to justice. It was at this village that I learnt that a petition, signed by the representatives of the Christian population, had been sent to the Vali, in whose hands it was when he emphatically denied to me the sufferings of the Christian population of this district.

I am not aware of the existence in any other part of Turkey of such a remnant of feudal superiority as there is in this part of the Aleppo Vilayet. There are on the slopes of Mount Cassius, reaching to the valley of the Orlontes, two powerful families, descended from the ancient Derch Beys, Sherif Agha and Jumes Agha, who have been in the immemorial habit of ruling the country with the sole view of enriching themselves legally or illegally. They have hitherto been the farmers of the tithes, seizing the crops and running into debt to the Government, and when local governors attempt to do their duty by checking these disorders they drive them away by violence until they secure their connivance.

The last Kaïmakam of Gisser Schoghl, Chakir Bey, exposed the Sherif Agha family as owing 10,000*l.* of arrears to Government, and he was removed from office through bribing of the Provincial Council at Aleppo. The present Kaïmakam, Mehomed Ali Bey, has succumbed to the influence of these families, oppressing both Christians and Mussulmans at their will, and serving their old enmities, furthering their pecuniary interests at the expense of the State, and sharing in the illicit profits of their joint transactions. It were tedious to enumerate all the instances of these irregularities which were brought under my notice in the villages, and which have been enhanced by resentment at the introduction of the new system of collecting the tithes; but I may assure your Excellency that I entertained no evidence on the subject which was not carefully sifted and verified.

One of the most remarkable cases was that of Hadji Bekri Agha, Sheikh of the

Mussulman community of Isaakiah, who was put to the torture by Yunes Agha, and was found loaded with chains in his stronghold when it was stormed by the late Omer Pasha some years ago; the son of that Derch Bey still maintains his father's animosity against the old Sheikh, who applied to me for protection from the cruelty and rapacity of the local magnate. Many complaints have been forwarded to Aleppo by both classes of the population, in which they go so far as to declare their intention of leaving the country, despairing of the enjoyment of the fruits of their labour, and abandoning their property to seek a livelihood elsewhere. But it is melancholy to record that no attention whatever is paid to their complaints, and the fact of their sufferings is even emphatically denied, without any inquiry deserving of the name having been instituted.

I took the occasion of the Kaïmakam's visiting me to admonish him for his misconduct and maladministration. I stated to him that the time had come when this state of affairs must cease, as it could not be tolerated that the population of a whole district should be subjected to such ill-treatment and oppression through the cupidity and culpable negligence of an incompetent official. He replied that he was transferred to Gisser Schoghl much against his own wish, and he begged me to get him removed to another Kaïmakamlik at once, as he felt quite unequal to the task of administering the Government of his present Kaïmakamlik.

These are the facts which I have been able to ascertain relative to this matter, and I respectfully submit them to your Excellency for such steps as it may appear expedient to take.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 34.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 7, 4 P.M.)

(No. 165.) *Therapia, August* 7, 1880, 1 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

MIDHAT PASHA has been appointed Vali of Smyrna in place of Hamdi Pasha, who goes to Syria. Reason assigned is fear of Midhat Pasha intriguing in Syria.

No. 35.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 9, 2·40 A.M.)

(No. 166.) *Therapia, August* 9, 1880, 12:30 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

MY draft reply on Armenian question, with some additions by Russian Ambassador agreed to by me, has been unanimously accepted by my colleagues as the answer which they will recommend their respective Governments to make. French text prepared by French Ambassador will be sent to each Government by earliest opportunity.

I somewhat modified the phrase about the census in consequence of your telegram No. 330 of the 29th July.

Major Trotter and Colonel Wilson will both be here very shortly, and I shall try to construct a plan for approximative census.

No. 36.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 198.) *Therapia, August* 2, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 186 of the 30th June last, I have the honour to state that it appears not improbable that some embarrassment may arise in regard to the future employment of Husni Effendi, the ex-Defterdar of Angora, as it would seem from the inclosed memorandum that he is related to the Sheik-ul-Islam. This relationship will, perhaps, account for the difficulty that was experienced in obtaining Husni Effendi's dismissal from his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Memorandum.

M'ETANT rendu chez le Cheikh-ul-Islam pour l'entretenir d'une affaire concernant le Consulat de Sa Majesté à Alep, son Altesse m'a parlé du Defterdar d'Angora, Husni Effendi, qui a été rappelé dernièrement sur les plaintes de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté.

Le Cheikh-ul-Islam m'a dit que Husni Effendi étant son parent, il est à même d'assurer votre Excellence que c'est un fonctionnaire tellement honnête et intègre qu'il n'a pas même les moyens nécessaires pour faire revenir à Constantinople sa famille, qu'il a dû laisser à Angora.

Le Cheikh-ul-Islam a ajouté que les renseignements parvenus à la Porte et ceux qu'il a pu se procurer au sujet de l'incident qui a motivé son rappel lui permettent de certifier qu'Husni Effendi n'a pas tenu le langage blessant qu'on lui a attribué et qu'il n'est que la victime d'intrigues ourdies contre lui par la jalousie de certains fonctionnaires du vilayet.

En présence de ces circonstances son Altesse ne désire pas voir Husni Effendi réintégré dans son poste de Defterdar d'Angora, mais serait très-redevable si votre Excellence, convaincue de son innocence, ferait savoir à la Porte qu'elle ne s'opposerait pas si le Gouvernement Impérial le nommait à un autre poste.

(Signé) M. MARINICH.

Péra, le 24 Juillet, 1880.

No. 37.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 201.)

Therapia, August 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia.

I have not yet had time to examine the Report from Lieutenant Chermside. Lieutenant Bennet and Captain Stewart both describe in their despatches difficulties arising out of the settlement of the Circassian refugees from Roumelia.

Few questions have caused the Turkish Government greater trouble, and it must be admitted that the task of dealing with these refugees is one which would tax the abilities of the strongest Administrators. The Turkish authorities have entirely broken down in the work, and have shown themselves quite unable to cope with the difficulty.

In my conversations with the Ottoman Ministers I have frequently called their serious attention to the unsatisfactory way in which the question of the settlement of the Circassian refugees from Roumelia is conducted, and the difficulties experienced by the Armenians, in whose villages they have been located, in obtaining justice.

The Reports from Captain Stewart and Lieutenant Bennet which accompany this despatch will be utilized by me for making further representations to the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 11.)

Sivas, Anatolia, July 6, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, some general remarks on the state of the country travelled through by me whilst attached to Baker Pasha's mission, since leaving Kurdistan, and in continuation of my despatch No. 4 of the 3rd April.

A marked difference is noticeable in the country as soon as the rugged, naked barrier of the Taurus is passed, and the Kharpout region reached. It is a region of fertile, high-lying plains, and wide, well-watered valleys, inclosed by high sterile rocky barriers, mostly of volcanic rock. The climate is severe, and live stock not so

abundant; the population is sedentary, except in so far as in many places they move to retreats and "Jailas," or high summer pastures, in the hot weather. There is very little timber in the district, especially to the south, nor is scrub abundant. North of the Mourad Tchai branch of the Euphrates, in parts of the Dersim, there is some; to the south towards the great bend of the river is a considerable amount of scrub, but the timber supply is scanty.

The villages are large and solidly built of mud and stone, and mostly flat roofed, there being sufficient timber, including the poplars usually grown near the villages, for the purpose. In this country the poplar produces good timber. The villages are richer and more prosperous-looking than the majority of those in Kurdistan, have decent dwellings, and are surrounded by fruit and other trees, thus forming a great contrast to the dreary assemblages of mud hovels, alone met with over such hundreds of miles of the country to the south.

The district is very rich in minerals: Argana Ma'aden, a copper mine of magnificent capabilities; Kohan Ma'aden and neighbourhood, argentiferous lead ore of good quality (1½ drams of silver in 2·75 lbs. of smelted metal), and in great abundance; iron ore, apparently hematite of good quality; coal of fair quality near Palu, only 2 or 3 miles from the Euphrates, and at Tchimes Gesek, also near the river. In travelling, as near as Hekim Khan, I have seen traces of sulphate of copper, so, presumably, more copper ore is to be found. Marble and alabaster abound. The mines at present are not worked, the supply of fuel in the immediate neighbourhood being exhausted, and the price of bringing it from a distance, and that of the subsequent transport of the crudely smelted ore, being prohibitive on the production of the latter.

The land is fertile, and the system of agriculture more advanced than that below; irrigation is met with, hand lifting of water, with leather buckets for the same, as in India, &c. Altogether there is a decidedly greater air of prosperity about the country than to the south, bare and ruined as it is in many respects. The Kharpout Plain, the Malatia Plain, and the Arabkir lowlands and slopes, with their masses of fruit trees, are the three most important districts. The Malatia Plain is the most extensive, and is magnificently watered; masses of fruit trees surround Azbazi, the new town distant over 3 miles from the ancient site; it is remarkably well built and clean for a Turkish town, and contains over 30,000 inhabitants. The Christians there are Armenians, and are in a great minority, as they are throughout the district. There is, however, a considerable Armenian rural population near these three centres, which occupies the largest and best villages. The large town of Kebau Ma'aden, once supported by the industry of the mines, is mostly ruined now, a mere village. There are a few Greeks, miners, both there and at Argana Ma'aden. Arabkir is a fairly thriving place, with a numerous Christian population. No roads lead into the district passable for wheeled transport, the ruined Diarbekir-Kharpout carriage road being the only attempt in that direction. Clumsy two-wheeled buffalo and ox carts, with revolving wooden axle and solid wheels, are used for agricultural purposes in parts of the district; but all through traffic is on pack animals. Camels are scarce, though a certain number come through on the Sivas road. Malatia has a magnificent site. The development of through communications to south, east, and west would be easy, to the north far more difficult. Timber is found to the south-west on the southern slopes of parts of the Taurus. To the east of Kharpout, and to the south of Malatia, and in the neighbourhood of Egin, are the three most important military positions.

Except the Moslem population of the towns, until the Euphrates is crossed to the west, the Moslems are mostly Kurds. The highlands to the north are peopled by the Lazu Kurds of the Dersim; to the south, towards Gerger, the inhabitants are also Kurds. It is not till west of Hassan Mansoor or Adiaman that the Turkomans are met with, and north of these again, in the Akdja Dagh, south of Hassan Chelebis, east of Derendé, are rather a famous tribe of robber Kurds. Once to the west of the Euphrates Turkish villages begin, and the Kurds are mostly Kizil Bash (Shiite, not Sunni); their language is Kourmandji.

The products of this district, besides wool and hides, are barley, wheat, a little milled, and Indian corn (Kharpout and Malatia Plains), opium (ditto, but principally), rice (Malatia), flax, dried fruits, gum, &c. The mining industry is at present ruined. Two long gorges lead from the Malatia Plain to the Sivas plateau, that by Derendé, although the course of the bigger stream leads through a little-frequented mountainous district, and is followed by no great thoroughfare; it is more winding than the other, and very likely more difficult. I had not time to examine it. The Kharpout-Sivas and Malatia-Sivas roads join at Hekim Khan in the other defile

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the latter might with very little labour be made a fair carriage road. Thence the ascent to the great watershed, that of the Euphrates and Halys or Küzül Tenne, is singularly easy and gentle; the watershed is about 5,500 feet above the sea. The highlands on which are the sources of the Derendé River, called the Tachma Sou, Sultan Sou, and other names, which joins the Euphrates near Malatia, and of the Seihour River or Sarus, which runs through a deep gorge in the Taurus to Adana, are rather bare, bleak, rounded uplands than mountains, and stretch right away south and west as such to the Elbistan Plain, the Ouzoun Jaïla, and the Anti-Taurus; they are cold, treeless, exposed, and very thinly populated; the colonies of cantonniers for the post and travellers' service over this great pass, planted at Alaja Khan and Delikli Tash by former Sultans, have recently, I regret to say, been deprived of their ancient privileges and exemption rights.

Mountain roads to the north also lead to Sivas; as far as Arabkir the road is not difficult; thence to Divrik over two ranges; one crossed by a pass over 6,000 feet high, it is necessarily difficult in winter. Divrik to Kargal, joining the other road at the latter place, is easy. Divrik to Sivas over the Kara Bel is a by no means difficult mule path; not practicable, however, in the winter months. The approaches to Egin are difficult mule tracks; whether the line Kharpout Egin, Keban Ma'aden Egin, Arabkir Egin, or Divrik Egin be followed; thence along the east bank of the river to Erzinjian is also very difficult, and a road would be very costly.

At Palu, in the Dersim, Mazgird, Gerger, Adiaman, Akdja Dagh, and west as far as Arabkir, the general state of security and the lawlessness of the Kurds is much as in Kurdistan, though the presence of a large force of troops in the Dersim, near Kharpout, cavalry at Malatia, Hekim Khan, and Hassan Chelebi, has maintained tranquillity to a great degree.

After the watershed is crossed there is a considerable change. A bleak upland country, very sparsely populated, lies to right and left of the great thoroughfare. As the descent to the Küzül Tenne valley system is made from Delikli Tash, the country to the right consists of the jagged rocky Kara Bel mountains, that to the left of the long grassy exposed uplands of the Ouzoun Jaïla.

Chalk is here met with, and a secondary (?) limestone formation, but trachyte, marls, volcanic clays and shales, marble, and talc continue to mark the general line of the road. The soil is deep and heavy in winter. A road could easily be made.

Sivas lies at a height of 4,400 feet above the sea, in the valley of the Halys; it is a large, flat-roofed, mud-built town, though surrounded by hills of marble; it contains upwards of 40,000 inhabitants.* It cannot compare for position, gardens, &c., to Malatia. Barley and wheat are the staple products of the neighbourhood; the villages are fairly well to do, and are an advance on those of Kurdistan, but not on those of Kharpout; agriculture is not so developed or the land so good as in the latter district. The autumn sowing is principally wheat; the spring sowing, barley. The country is more open, less rocky, if possible barer, and carries nothing like the amount of stock one would have expected. The rural population contains more proper Turks, but Küzül Bashis are numerous, and of these there are both Turkish and Koumandji-speaking communities. The Christian rural population is Armenian, and is in a very great minority.

Two roads lead to Tokat; one, the winter road, is over 70 miles, the other, the summer one, rather over 60, passes close to the foot of the Fildez Dagh, a high isolated peak of the range separating the Yeshil Tenne or Iris water system from that of the Halys; both cross this range by passes over the Chamli Bel, a gentle sloping partly-wooded range. Tokat, a large town at the mouth of a gully leading into the Iris Valley, is a handsome, well-built town, bowered among fruit trees, the handsomest town I have seen in Asia Minor since leaving Marash; it is rich in fruits and gardens, and has fine a site; under any other Government it would be a thriving place: an almost level road leads thence on the right of the river down the broad fertile valley called the Kaz Ora, towards Amasia; there is also a road on the left bank which crosses the river at Tourkhal and joins the other. The road is of excellent gradient and passable for carts, but the soil is deep. After thirty miles the valley narrows and the river enters a gorge, but the track is not difficult, especially if after Tachbazar, with its wide fertile partly-wooded valley, the course of the Iris be followed to Amasia, instead of crossing a high spur. The line up an affluent of the Iris from the Kaz Ora to the Zilleh country and so to the Mersifun Plain and Samsoun, looks an easy one, as the country becomes more and more open for turning the Amasia gorge, and

* General Baker's figures.

would probably be of use in any development of railway communicating from Samsoun. After once descending from the Chamli Bel, the whole appearance of the country strikes a traveller from Arabistan, Mesopotamia, or Kurdistan very forcibly,—abundant water, long smiling valleys, dotted all over, even among the arable lands, with wild fruit and other trees, wooded hills and mountains, the débris of magnificent forests, abundant pasture and scrub forest. The mountains to the north of Tokat lying between the Iris and the Lycus valleys rise in few places above 4,500 feet above the sea, and are covered with wood and scrub, though the timber is not fine, and in all easily accessible places the woods are much ruined. All the country is traversed by numerous cart tracks, and not only are the clumsy two-wheeled carts already mentioned found, but four-wheeled horse arabas of the Circassian pattern, *i.e.*, very like the Roumelian "talika," a strong serviceable cart. A cart track leads from Tokat to Niksar, another to Horek, the track eastward up the Lycus to Derékeui, and so either to Zara or Enderes, and thence to Erzeroum, is not used for carts or as a thoroughfare, and is difficult. The country, considering its capabilities, is sparsely cultivated and stocked, agriculture slovenly, industries, mining and manufactures, almost nil. Amasia is a beautiful town, situated in a rocky limestone gorge; it has abundant acreage of gardens, vines, &c.; it has suffered much damage from spring floods. The silk industry has died out owing to disease of the worms. It is a singularly clean, prosperous-looking town; its civilized appearance, the flour and bread found there, and other indications, bear testimony to the effect on the natives of the example of the German colony. The Samsoun road leaves it by a side gorge. That to Niksar lies through the gorge of the Yeshil Tenne for over twenty miles, is not very difficult, and is passable for rough carts; a railway would be difficult of construction and costly; it is fairly wooded, especially on the right bank, fir, beech, and oak; both timber and scrub. The extensive plain called the Tash Ora is then entered. Its population is principally Moslem, but there are Greeks and Armenians as well as at Tokat and Amasia, the large Christian population of which latter place is influential. The Tash Ora is a large well-cultivated plain, the Moslem inhabitants of which in past years were very independent of the Government; Georgian refugees have also been established there many years; a good cart track enters it at Sunnisa, coming from Ladik on the Samsoun road. At the junction of the Iris and Lycus is an old stone bridge, and the river here enters a difficult rocky gorge with cascades, and flows to Icharshembé; it is not suitable for navigation. The Tash Ora is dotted with trees, and the mountains which inclose it are clothed with a certain amount of timber and with a good deal of scrub. A little cotton is produced, rice near Sunnisa and Horek, and excellent cereals, but the most valuable production is tobacco of excellent quality equal to that of Bafra and Icharshembé. The roads to the latter place are Ounich and Ordu; the "scalas" of this part of the country are difficult mountain paths leading over little inhabited highlands, with a good deal of scrub and forest. Horek is a small town in the plain; Niksar, a charmingly-situated, picturesque little town in a gorge to the north of the plain, with tile and shingle roofed, stone, and stone and wood houses. From Niksar there is a thoroughfare to Kara-Hissar and Erzinjian; in winter the valley is followed by an up and down difficult path over rocks and spurs following the course of the river; the summer road is not difficult for pack animals; it lies to the north and crosses four spurs or ranges by passes 5,000 to 6,000 feet high before reaching Kebili-Hissar; it passes through magnificent forest scenery only surpassed in my experience of Turkey in Asia by that in the Kastamouni Vilayet. Oak of numerous varieties, live oak, fir, pine (some of magnificent size and quality), pitch pine, beech, elm, ash (rare), lignum vitæ, yew (rare), maple, thorn, buck-thorn, cornel plane, willows, alder, walnut, pear, wild plum, cherry, apple, poplar (mostly near the villages), are found. Oak, beech, hazel, acacia, Judas tree, juniper, caroba (rare), arbutus, rhododendron, and azalea scrub and other shrubs are also found, and the tragacanth gum plant. Grass meadow pastures are abundant, and the hill tops rounded flat and easy, and often wooded right up to the snows. There is an ample supply of clear running water; the streams except in spate are all fordable, with the exception of the Melet Sou, about half-way between Niksar and Kara-Hissar; this river runs towards the Black Sea through a deep narrow gorge between bare sterile mountains, and the country thence, both in the direction of Ordu and Kiragond, appears high, difficult, and broken. The district is thinly peopled by inhabitants, principally Anatolian Turks (Sunnis); the Christians are for the most part Greeks, who speak a dialect with Greek words in it, which my Greek servant could not understand; he says it is Laz; many of the Moslems speak it too. The villages are mostly mountain hamlets, built very solidly of round logs with projecting ends, but at times of upright

logs filled in diagonally or vertically with sun-dried clay. The roofs are flat, pitched and shingle roofs, the latter with wide projecting eaves as in Swiss chalets, and similarly weighted with boulders. The winter is always rigorous here. Two-wheeled carts are in general use; oxen are besides used to drag timber through the forests, and, as a consequence, there is a net-work of tracks all over the country, right away to the Jildiz Dagh and Zara, infinitely superior when not hopelessly deep in mud to the biggest thoroughfare in the south. The geological formation is principally primary and metamorphic, and volcanic as it approaches Kara-Hissar. Lyemite, gneiss, granite, clays, serpentine, serpentine schist, and then trap and trachyte, with here and there layers of volcanic overflow hyperite I think. Tafa is also met with, which, when disintegrated, forms a rich dark soil. Niksar is built of trachyte and a spongy basalt, lighter in colour than that of Mesopotamia. In the Melet Gorge a very bright trachyte is found, and I have seen houses roofed with slate. Shales of many descriptions are common. Dolerite, gypsum, and marble are also met with.

The wanton destruction of the forests is most lamentable.

Rainfall seems always abundant, attributable, I suppose, to the elevated nature of this region and its proximity to the Black Sea, and this perhaps accounts, all along Northern Anatolia, for the forests having remained so far what they are. The belt of forest is here, however, by no means so wide as near Kastamouni and westwards to the embouchure of the Sakaria. North of the line indicated it is neither continuous nor dense, while south it gets thinner and thinner, wooded hills stretching as far as Jildiz Dagh and to within two hours of Torbaji in the Zara district. Beyond Keüili-Hissar the forest ends, and gives place to the usually bare volcanic mountains of Armenia; the road follows the deep caron of the Germili or Kalkyt Sehar (ancient Lycus) to near Enderes, which lies in a fertile upland district dotted with fine villages, surrounded by good lands, trees, &c., a district continuing such to the Euphrates watershed. The Küzül Dagh, a lofty mountain of rather gentle contour, said to be always snowclad, and unmarked on the map, is a prominent feature; the main branch of the Küzül Temac rises in its south-east slopes, several days' journey from where it is shown in the maps; the other in a mountain some 70 miles south of Kara-Hissar. At Enderes the Erzinjian and Erzeroum roads practicable for carts meet the two cart tracks from Torbadji and Zara in the Küzül Temac Valley; another leads from Zara to Erzinjian. This most important country, a blank in the maps, has been thoroughly reconnoitred by Baker Pasha and his staff, Mr. Charles Scheffer, Captain Stewart, and myself. Kara-Hissar is a large town occupying a commanding position just to the west of an affluent of the Germili Tchai; its population is about 20,000, nearly half being Armenian; it is singularly unlike an Anatolian town, with its whitewashed houses and pitched wooden roofs, and resembles those in Servia; the main khan and the bazaars have recently been destroyed by fire; roads lead thence to Baibart and Erzeroum, to Erzinjian (two, one practicable for carts), to Kerasund (two mule tracks and parts of a projected road). Both the latter mule tracks are bad, and cross the lofty Gambet Dagh, over 6,000 feet; one, however, is rarely closed, but following, as it does, rocky ravines and cañons, this line would prove most expensive for road construction, as would the other existing track which passes by the mines. The proposed line for a carriage-road would follow long, high, gentle spurs, but have the disadvantage of being closed for months by snow. An outlet to the sea is most necessary here, as well for commercial as military considerations. Kara-Hissar, though showing the defects of most of the mountain positions in Armenia, is an important military position. I have made a rough sketch of the environs. The mines which I visited are now in the hands of an Anglo-German Company. They are of argentiferous lead; the ore is of excellent quality, but seems less abundant than that at Keban Ma'aden. The Company are preparing to sink a considerable amount of capital in their works; they have also a mine near Kerasund, and the concession of those at Gyumush Khané. The mines visited lie between Kara-Hissar and Kerasund, and beyond them, *en route* to the latter place, a belt of forest over 20 miles wide is crossed. The rural population here contains a far larger proportion of Armenians than further west; there are also Greeks. Some of the villages are large and well-to-do, but, as everywhere else, all have seen better days. There is coal at no great distance. An excellent quality of alum is abundant.

West-south-west of Kara-Hissar, and between it and Zara, lies the high rounded range of the Kousse Dagh, and, south-east, the enormous "massif" of the Küzül Dagh. Two long wooded defiles pass between these; the one is followed by a cart-track to Zara, the other leads to the Giöjé Bel or Col, 6,000 feet, distant about 35 miles

from Kara-Hissar; an easy ascent path by a bridle-path, through a wooded country intersected by numerous village-cart tracks. Easy gradients lead down to the main valley of the Kizil Temac, a wide, open country, easily passable in summer, through which runs the direct summer Erzinjian route and the telegraph (two wires). The Giöjé Bel completely turns the Zara-Enderes road. The population is here principally Kurdish, Shi'a faith, Kourmandji dialect; dwellings and clothing Kurdish. The ruins of the Giöjé Bel and Küzül Dagh forests are a sad spectacle. The formation is still volcanic. Continuing towards Divrik, from the Giöjé Bel to the Chorak Bel, is an easy line. After fording the Küzül Temac, here a clear rapid trout stream, 30 yards wide, the formation is marble and limestone. After the Chorak Bel, some 60 miles from Kara-Hissar, a very mountainous country begins. The bulk of the inhabitants are Koteh Kiri (Küzül Bash), Kurds, Kourmandji. The Chorak Bel (a col) is the watershed between the Euphrates affluents and the southern branch of the Küzül Temac; it is 6,500 feet above the sea. From it a long, narrow valley leads right down to the coal mines opposite Kamakh, and the snowy, craggy, western barrier of the Dersim is seen in its whole length. The valley is narrow and winding, but the lateral ranges are not very elevated, and a line of communication from the eastward might be made up it. From the Chorak Bel to Zara there is a reputedly easy cart-track. A hog's back leads to the difficult ascent of the Bey Dagh, 7,200 feet. The country is more rocky and well watered, scrub instead of timber; it is difficult all the way to Divrik. The Deli Dagh, a prolongation of the Kara Bel, has to be crossed, 6,600 feet; bad ascent and descent. The villages are small and rather poor. The country is in an unsettled state. It is traversed by no main thoroughfare, and there is very little traffic. Marble and sulphate of lime are abundant, and there are feldspathic and syenitic rocks as Divrik is approached. At that place the rock is trachyte. The town, a large one of 13,000 inhabitants, 2,000 Moslem and 5,000 Christian houses, consists of miserable flat-roofed mud houses, and is in a dilapidated condition; only grain is grown in the neighbourhood. Charcoal is burnt at no great distance. There are no cotton, rice, opium, fruit, &c. The easiest road hence to Sivas is by Kangal, and thence the road is the main post route already described. Behind the town the Divrik River, which falls into the Euphrates, passes through a rocky gorge; the Egin road, a very difficult track, turns this, 40 miles. Arabkir is also about 40 miles distant; the track is difficult, but passable, except in the depth of winter. The direct line to Sivas is followed by two routes, one in a difficult valley crossing the river by a bridge, the other leading over a pass 6,250 feet; these unite at Yarbasan. From Sinjan six hours from Divrik on the latter, a branch track crossing the other leads direct to Zara, following the course of a stream up to the Kara Bel; this is an exceedingly difficult pass.

From Yarbasan two tracks lead over the Kara Bel, which is a high, rocky, almost impassable barrier from this point west by south to Delikli Tash, and very difficult to the east by north; the two passes followed by these two paths converge on the far side, and are highly defensible. The next pass east has been mentioned. Beyond this there is no mule-track even in use till those over the Deli Dagh, which I have already described. Beyond this comes the Tchorak Bel, &c. It is, indeed, a mountainous, highly defensible country, the centre principally Kurdish, the outskirts Turk and Kurd; there are a few Armenian villages. The usual Divrik-Zara road diverges after the double pass, Kara Bel, from the Sivas route; one track leads over a rolling marble country, with the usual steep-sided ravines, to Kainas and Koteh-Hissar; another direct to Zara, all practicable for country carts. There are numerous village tracks, too, in the direction of Sivas, and they are followed according to the halting-place selected.

From Enderes, it has been already said, two roads lead to Zara and Sivas, one passing along the side of a defile to the east of the Kousse Dagh, the other to the west of that mountain; both pass through the débris of the forests that within living memory were to be found in the now bare Küzül Temac Valley. This valley is a broad, fertile one, with only one good closing position near Torbadji; the stream is crossed by four wooden bridges between Zara and Koteh-Hissar; there are numerous cart tracks in all directions. In wet weather the soil is very deep. The formation is marble, talc, red sandstone, and clay. Near Koteh-Hissar are several small lakes; to the east of the river there is a great extent of rolling, scrub-covered country, which lies at the extremity of the spur of the Chamli Bel range, which abuts on the Küzül Temac about 20 miles from Sivas. This range, of which Tildiz is the principal peak, is not difficult, and numerous tracks traverse the easy highlands to the north.

About 8 miles above Sivas the valley narrows at a point where there is an old stone bridge of many arches; another crosses it opposite, and 2 miles from Sivas (eighteen small arches), and a third 4 miles below the city. The whole of the country

described, misgoverned and ruined as it is, struck me as being by some degrees in a better condition than the country to the south, and Baker Pasha confirms this. Less time, less capital would be required to initiate its progress and improvement, bad as are communications; for instance, the use by the natives of rude-wheeled transport has gradually done a great deal towards developing them; wheeled transport exists, large villages are comparatively numerous; the villages contain far better dwellings, are surrounded by trees, often have plots of garden, &c. The climate, however, is far more rigorous, the land less fertile, and only in favoured districts will anything but cereals succeed. The remains of the forests might yet be saved, and the forests extended. Schools generally, but more especially primary schools, are far more numerous, and in this respect the district compares very favourably with those before described.

Insecurity is great and highway robbery ripe, but I do not judge matters to be as aggravated as in Kurdistan, &c. Outrage is not on so large a scale, and clan feuds entailing attack of village on village seem almost unknown. The people are more submissive and pay their taxes pretty regularly; the enormous amounts of arrears met with farther south and south-east seem unknown. Four or five zaptiehs only are often found in a "caza," which is yet quieter than those I have described where there are twenty or thirty. This comparison, however, is a very relative one, and I would earnestly wish to avoid giving your Excellency the impression that I believe that chronic misgovernment, corruption, and venality could be carried to a worse pitch, but rather that while they are the same, or as bad as they can well be, and all is steadily going to ruin, their effects have not yet been developed so far, and the same ruin and desolation that I have seen elsewhere has not yet overtaken this region; it would require less time to right itself to be saved. The state of the forests is one calling for most earnest attention on the part of the Turkish Government. The magnificent forests of this part of Anatolia are fast disappearing, owing to a destruction as wilful, wanton, and wholesale as it is unheeded; the villagers in the forest district use wooden water pitchers cut out of the solid wood, worth 8*d.* to 1*s.* To make one of these, a man will go on felling magnificent trees till he finds one without a flaw, or that suits him. The law allows villagers reclaiming and stubbing scrub lands to obtain a title for them; this is interpreted into permission to burn tracts of forest land, to be fertilized by the ashes as well as cleared, and this misinterpretation is, I believe, one of the causes of the fires that in August and September are lighted all through the remaining forests and on the scrub lands of Turkey; no official has ever given me a satisfactory explanation of these fires, but I can aver that from Olympus in Thessaly, from Monastir and Novi-Bazar, along the Balkans, and along the Ægean from the "Sea of Trees" near Ismidt to Kastamouni and hither, wherever there are forests, to the eastern extremity of those on the Taurus, to the summit of the Ghour Dagh and on to Mount Cassino (and I am told to the Lebanon), I have seen the same. Coming last August from Kastambol to Syria, Said Pasha, who had been doing his best to suppress it in his vilayet, was greeted with the same long line of fires round the mountainous shores of the Gulf of Scanderoon, and wherever we travelled during the remainder of the dry season it was the same. Apparently, these fires are often unsatisfactory or unsuccessful, for one meets endless patches of burnt forest uncleared. When they are cleared, they as well as the village inclosures where timber is more precious are fenced with solid trees.

The beams used in the construction of houses are of absurd dimensions, and often monopolise all the timber of decent scantling. Then in felling, if a tree falls badly or against another, it is left; both often die thus. For the felling of a large number of trees subsequently left to rot it is impossible to assign a reason. Thousands and thousands of trees lie on the ground, from those rotted to touchwood to those just felled; in places for miles they form an almost continuous line. The amount of time and labour expended is enormous, and in places a wholesale destruction for military purposes requiring the labour of hundreds of men could hardly have been carried out so effectually. Thinning is not resorted to; an accessible place is selected, and the forest destroyed to the last tree. The hill-side has then the appearance of a graveyard, as being inexpert and lazy woodmen; the natives hack through the trunk at heights varying from 3 feet to 8 feet from the ground, according as they can find the easiest place to cut and the most convenient height. Pines and pitch pines suffer the most. I believe, in many of the districts I have recently visited, it is no exaggeration to say that there is enough wood lying cut for firewood and general purposes to suffice for the wants of the population for 5 years without cutting another stick. Not far from the Kâzûl Tenne and only 30 to 35 miles from Sivas is the Avdja Dagh, whose fast

disappearing pine forests supply the town with timber, the natives cut, drag, and deliver it at the river for a medjidié or dollar per tree. The scanty timber of the Chandi Bel, "Pine-tree Pass," can no longer be called forest, and assiduous daily destruction will soon demolish it. On the Yeshil Tenne below Amasia fine timber is yet to be found, beyond Niksar to Kelâh-Hissar there are sketches of splendid forest; beyond this again come the bare treeless mountains of Armenia, the rapidly dwindling fir and oak forests of the Kousse Dagh and Kâzûl Dagh, and then the denuded Divrik and Zara districts, thence to Mosul on till the Taurus and Ghour Dagh are reached north-east of Scanderoon, as your Excellency is aware, not a forest is to be found, only a few stunted trees on the mountains here and there, and the produce of gardens and plantations. Even in the Sivas Vilayet it will not be enough to arrest the process and introduce forest regulations similar to those in the Caucasus; planting should be done. Baker Pasha telegraphed to the Vali on the matter, and I have spoken to him; he has sent a circular to the Sub-Governors. This may only too probably share the fate of the existing forest regulations.

Most of the zaptiehs both in the Kharpoot and Sivas vilayets are not in such a neglected state as those reported on in the spring. They are all in arrears of pay, but not so much, and in receipt of rations; badly clothed, but they have some uniform; in outlying districts badly armed, but many have Winchester rifles. They are not sufficiently numerous, and, as regards efficiency, are probably little if at all more efficient than those to the south; but their personal hardships and privations are not quite so aggravated. Much of the land in the district visited lies very high, and the average yield on some cultivated land is not much over 3-1. On no lands does it seem to reach an average of 10, and I believe the average for mountain lands may be placed at 1-4·5 or 5, that of the plain lands at 1-7 or 8, the general as 1 to between 6 and 7. Considering the land, this does not compare unfavourably with Kurdistan.

Agriculture, as a rule, is most slovenly; land sufficiently plentiful for it to be lightly worked and left fallow one year in two. The sowing is bad and too close, 3 bushels to the acre. A sort of harrowing is gone through, and the system of ploughing after sowing, by which much of the grain is buried for good, is not so general.

Although there has been no scarcity of grain in this district, and the crops promise well, I was surprised to find how heavy the loss of stock has been. In many places it was over half, and hardly ever under a quarter. I am assured it will be found to be not less than one-third of total stock of sheep and goats, and over one-fifth of cattle. Transport is dear; merchandise to Samsoun, a little over 200 miles, costs over 6*l.* per ton, and from Tocat to Samsoun (140–150 miles) about 5*l.* per ton. The Government were paying lately for post horses 1*s.* 1½*d.* per hour of 3½ miles distance. The Government functionaries are in many cases in arrears with their salaries, and there is great discontent and complaint on this score, and on that of the insufficiency of their pay. For one large "nahbijé," or sub-district, an administration of twenty-eight villages, Baybarta, I found a "Mudir" as the sole representative of the Government; he had not even a zaptieh to assist him, and he received 300 piastres a month.

The recent reductions of salaries have been:—

(*a*). The changing of many districts into districts of inferior grade.

(*b*). The reduction in "balancing the budget" of official salaries by 10 per cent.

(*c*). The reduction of all official salaries by 5 per cent. to allow for pension.

(*d*) The reduction by 20 per cent. of all official salaries for "akcha farki," or difference of value of the current rate of the piastre and that paid to the employés with the lira at 100 piastres.

Thus the Governor of Divrik, a large district whose capital contains 13,000 inhabitants, had his district first reduced from a first class to a second class caza, and his salary reduced from 1,700 piastres per month (a not very large sum) to about 1,500 piastres; the subsequent reductions have brought it down to 1,080 piastres per month, or not quite 10*l.*

Great discontent reigns among all classes at the state of the administration, and even some of the "old Turks," a party usually found in the towns, consisting of men living principally on the produce of endowments (vakouf), of which they are trustees, are changing in their ideas since the Government has taken over the administration of these funds, but omits to pay the promised subsidies.

Still the Turks with the jealous clinging grasp of power of the feeble, the dread of seeing the inheritance of their domination pass to others, the conscious belief of superiority, civil, religious, and beyond the grave, and imbued with the exclusiveness

of Islam as they are, alike notable and peasant, remain the most loyal, the most patient class.

The Christians are in places influential. They are universally discontented, more and more averse to rulers they are beginning to despise, as anxious to be helped by others, as mean, untruthful, grasping, selfish, and over-reaching as elsewhere in Asiatic Turkey, but intelligent, thrifty, and developing, or anxious to develop, in education and aspirations. The Armenians, keenly alive to what has been done for the Christians of European Turkey, to the effect on Europe of the cruel sufferings of their co-nationalists further east and in Kurdistan, and to the significance of the movement initiated and sustained by the Constantinople Patriarchate, are inclined to grossly exaggerate their special grievances, and to magnify unreasonably or trump up cases of outrage and oppression. While it is natural it should be so, it is equally natural that the evidences, often unreasonable ones, that so clearly indicate the growing audacity of the long suppressed disaffection of a minority, they have been accustomed to look on with contempt, should be very galling to the Turks, feeling as they do that they can no longer afford or dare to deal with it summarily. The various Christian nationalities and sects are as jealous and hateful of each other as elsewhere, and as united in detesting the Moslem. As regards outrage or violence, they have little enough to complain of in the towns, but wherever one may travel there is the same complaint as to Christian testimony not being accepted in the Courts. The influence of their own timid, self-seeking members in the Tribunals appears of very little use to them. The principal merchants are Christians. The Kizül Bashis, a strange people of whose origin little seems known, are very numerous in this district, and consist of both Turkish and Kourmandji speaking communities; none I have met speak Laz, though some have come from the Dersim in former generations. Many are undoubtedly Shiites, whatever may be the additional mysterious Pagan rites so universally ascribed to them. They detest the Turks, and have an unusually strong feeling in favour of the English, many professing to be even ready to change their religion for protection.

Although many communities betake themselves in summer to the high grass-lands, there are no nomads inhabiting the country described, but the extreme east is visited by Turkmen tribes. The taxes are better paid up than in Kurdistan, and "individual taxation" is general. The Government has itself collected the tithes, or compounded with the inhabitants; this seems generally preferred to the old system.

It is too soon to give an opinion on the new method of collecting the money taxes. A proper cadastre and census are urgently needed. The six or seven requisites in the way of elementary reform in order to ameliorate the existing lamentable condition of things are too well known to your Excellency to need recapitulation. I have avoided in this Report anything but a very general description which may interest your Excellency, as with the statistics Baker Pasha has in part furnished to me and those he has promised, together with such information as I have been able to collect, I hope to be able to prepare the detailed reports on all districts visited called for by Her Majesty's Consul-General for Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 2. Political.)

Kaisarieh, July 20, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to Sir H. Layard's despatch of the 7th May, on the subject of the Armenian villagers of Agenli, I have the honour to report as follows:—

The village of Agenli is situated on the low lands between Kars and Marash, on the left bank of the river, which at this point forms the boundary of the Aleppo and Adana vilayets. It is therefore in the Marash Mutessarillik.

For some years previous to 1878 this district had been much disturbed, owing to the lawlessness of Kel Kish Oglu (a descendant of the Déré Beys) and his followers, and partly on account of the plunderings and annoyance caused by this band of marauders, and partly on account of the exactions of the Turkish troops passing eastwards. About this period the Armenian inhabitants of Agenli abandoned their village

temporarily, taking the remnants of their flocks to the mountains for security, but still cultivating the land and reaping the crops.

In the summer of 1878 the corn had been gathered, and, according to the Christians, the land prepared for the following year. During the autumn or early winter a body of Circassian refugees from Roumelia, for whose disposal the Adana authorities were responsible, arrived at Agenli, and finding the place deserted contrived in some way or another, rumour says by a bribe of 100 medjidiés to the Kaïmakam of Kars, to be allowed to settle there. Agenli being in the Aleppo Vilayet, and Kars in that of Adana, the Kars Kaïmakam had no right to make such an allotment, of course, even if the land had been available.

Kel Kish Oglou was killed in 1877, and his band broken up, and the country becoming quieter, the Armenians were naturally desirous of returning to Agenli, when they found themselves thus supplanted, and they have been unable, up to the present, to regain possession of their village.

Sir H. Layard inquired what action the local authorities had taken in the matter. I have ascertained that during the winter the Kaïmakam of Andrin proceeded to Agenli with a large escort of zaptiehs, and remained there some days; but the object and effect of this demonstration are not apparent; otherwise up to the present nothing has been done.

Lieutenant Chermside visited Agenli last October, and spoke later on both to Zia Pasha (Adana) and Said Pasha (Aleppo) on the subject, and they both agreed that the Circassians had no right there, and must be provided for elsewhere.

The Mutessarif of Kozan, Rechid Bey, a very able and enlightened man, informed me on the 10th instant that he had received orders to inquire into the case, and that he was awaiting the arrival of some of the Armenians at Sis to learn their wishes directly. He stated, moreover, that the matter had only recently come to his notice officially, as the Kaïmakam of Kars had settled the matter in the first instance directly with the Adana authorities, without reference to him; he also stated that he had never had the slightest doubt on the justice of the case, and should report to the effect that the Armenians should be reinstated. Under these circumstances, I cannot but think the Armenian Patriarch must be in error in attributing the extract in his letter of the 25th January to the Mutessarif of Kozan; possibly the Kaïmakam of Kars is the author.

I asked the Mutessarif to deal with the question himself at once, to reinstate the Christians, and settle the Circassians elsewhere, but he could not take the responsibility, the matter being in the hands of the higher authorities.

In a conversation with the Kaïmakam of Kars, he acknowledged that he was responsible for allowing the Circassians to settle at Agenli, and that it had been a mistake on his part; but, he stated, the Armenians were now satisfied, and had no wish to return to their village. Being pressed on this point, it turned out that instead of all the Christians being satisfied (they are now much scattered), three families out of five which had settled at Kars had received 3,275 piastres compensation between them, and that these three had signed a declaration to the effect that they were satisfied, which no doubt the Kaïmakam had made the best use of, but where the money came from, or what authority the Kaïmakam had to attempt to settle the question in this way, I do not know, nor do I think much credence can be placed on his statements.

I visited Agenli on the 9th instant, and found three of the Armenian families still living there; one of these cultivated land, but the other two were earning a livelihood by saddle making; they informed me that their comrades were anxious to return.

The Circassians I found there were a melancholy spectacle; originally about 100, their numbers had been decreased by about 40, who had succumbed to the change of climate during the short two years they had been in their new abode; and of those I saw several were mere wrecks, and evidently suffering. I informed them there had been a mistake in allowing them to settle there, and that they would have to turn out; they complained at having to leave a place where so many of their dead lay, and thought some help should be given them to settle elsewhere, and this I think would be but fair.

As regards the church which the Patriarch complains has been turned into a mosque, this was the case during Lieutenant Chermside's visit last October, but it was promptly put a stop to shortly afterwards, and at the time of my visit there were horses in it, and the Circassians said it was now in the same state they found it.

In conclusion, I would call *your* Excellency's attention to the fact that the main points of the case are precisely clear, viz.:—

1. That the lands belong to the Armenians, who, I believe, possess the title-deeds. The question which has been raised by the Turkish authorities as to whether they were ever tilled or untilled is irrelevant, as the title to lands granted on the usual terms does not lapse unless they are uncultivated for three years in succession.

2. That the Circassians were unjustly established at Agendi, at any rate with the concurrence of the Government.

3. That the Kaza Kaimakam had no right whatever to allow them to settle in the Aleppo Vilayet.

4. That the fact of Armenian families being still there, and wishing to regain possession of the land, completely disposes of the assertion that they had ceded all claims.

5. That the Governors-General of Aleppo and Adana were both agreed as to the justice of the Armenian claim.

It is very desirable that the Porte should issue instructions at once, so that the Circassians could get settled elsewhere before the winter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Captain Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 15. Political.)

Konieh, July 22, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that lively riots have occurred at Al-Sazai and Nigrieh between the Tchukers and the other inhabitants of these places. In the former town one Tchuker and one Armenian were killed.

2. On the 17th instant I brought the matter to the notice of his Excellency the Vali, who informs me that he is going to change the Kaimakam of Al-Sazai, who, to say the least of it, appears to have been wanting in energy; also that he has reinforced the police at both these places, and reduced the numbers of the Tchukers by bringing many of them here. It is to be hoped that these measures may prove effectual.

3. I must, however, point out to your Excellency that, until some measures are taken towards finally settling the Tchukers, such riots will constantly be liable to occur. In this respect nothing whatever has yet been done. The Central Government has not yet even decided whether the Tchukers are to be allowed to form villages of their own, or whether they are to be divided off among the Turkish villages. Most contradictory orders are sent from Constantinople. Lately, acting under instructions, the Vali selected sites for villages, and had made preparations to build, when orders again came that the Tchukers were to be told off among the Turkish villages. By the same order he was also directed to discontinue the issue of rations after two months. The Vali has declined to carry out these orders, stating that as long as he has no force at his command he is unable to enforce them.

4. As regards a military force, the Government here has repeatedly applied for a cavalry regiment, but so far without any success. The Sublime Porte, I am informed, some months ago, requested the military authorities to send a regiment to Konieh, but the request was disregarded. It is evident that, until the local authorities have some forces at their disposal, they can do but little towards maintaining the peace.

5. I would beg to point out to your Excellency how ruinous to the best interests of the country and to the prestige of the Government is the present very lawless state of things. As regards trade, it is not so much the actual losses that are incurred as the fear and terror it causes to traders, mule drivers, &c. I have myself on some occasions, owing to this cause, found some difficulty in hiring horses, the owners fearing to be robbed of them on their return journey. As for the effect upon the Tchukers, it is of course most unfortunate. Instead of being taught habits of order, industry, and obedience to the law they are being [illegible] into highwaymen and robbers, and are acquiring a feeling of contempt for the Ottoman Government and nation, which I have frequently heard them express. They state that they would gladly welcome any foreign Government, even the Russian. In this, however, they are not alone; the same feeling pervades a large and increasing portion of the Mahommedan population.

Many appear to look upon the case of their own Government as irretrievably hopeless. At the same time, I do not wish to convey the impression that there is not also a very strong and powerful leaven of fanaticism which could be easily stirred up.

6. That the Tchukers are capable of becoming useful and improving settlers their present condition in the Azizieh district of the Sivas Vilayet amply proves. There they have been established since the days of the Crimean war. Their villages are decidedly superior in cleanliness and general comfort to the ordinary Anatolian village. The town itself is rapidly increasing in size and prosperity, and has an appearance of energy and life about it that is rare to find in Anatolian towns. During my stay all evidence concurred in stating that the Tchukers' residents were on the whole orderly, although it was not denied that a year or two ago they had given a good deal of trouble.

7. As for the emigration question, I can see but two courses open to the Government: either to allow the Tchukers to build villages of their own, or to strengthen the hands of the local Governments and divide the Tchukers among the different Turkish villages.

8. The original number of emigrants, Tchukers and others, in this vilayet, was estimated last year at 18,000. They are now reduced, by death and other causes, to 9,000. For this great loss the Imperial Government is mainly responsible.

9. I regret also to have to inform your Excellency that the locusts are making considerable progress in this vilayet. They have now spread as far as Orta Keuy, a village north-west of Bor, in the east of the vilayet. This is, I believe, the first time they have ever appeared so far east. It is reported that efforts are being made to destroy them.

10. To the north, in the Khudavendighiar Vilayet, the destruction caused by these insects is said to be simply appalling; large tracts of country are swept perfectly bare, not even a stalk left standing, and even towns, such as Eski-Sehehr, are invaded. It is difficult to know how to deal with this plague. To destroy the eggs is contrary to the religious prejudices of many. As a means of destruction, many put their faith in the lapwing bird. With reference to this bird there is a curious superstition. It is believed that it follows the water from a certain well in the Angora Vilayet. Priests and other holy men have worked this superstition to their own profit, and certain dervishes wander about the country with this water, and are, of course, well paid by the credulous peasantry. That this superstition obtains in even the highest official circles is evident by a telegram received here not long ago, praying that a holy dervish with the sacred water might be dispatched to a certain province.

There can be no doubt that this bird, when in sufficient numbers, destroys many locusts, but to make any real impression other and more powerful means are also necessary. For some years to come in the early autumn and spring the peasantry ought to be vigorously employed in destroying locust eggs. To have this carried out effectively the peasants should be paid so much per oke. Here the old difficulty of finding honest and intelligent officials is met with. Granting that the Government would be willing to spend a large sum of money for this purpose, there can be no question that the money would be diverted from its legitimate purpose, and find its way into the official pocket. So many certificates, papers, and mazbatas as judged necessary would be signed and certified to by officials and notables, setting forth that so many thousand or million oakes of eggs had been destroyed, when in reality nothing or next to nothing had been done.

11. Whether the prospect of starvation, loss of revenue, depopulation, &c., will rouse the people and Government to exert themselves, remains to be seen. Personally I have no doubt many telegrams, orders, and other official documents will be exchanged between the capital and the provinces, but that anything effectual can or will be done by the present officials and under the present system is exceedingly improbable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 38.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 211.)

Therapia, August 3, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 163, 187, and 197, on the subject of the proceedings of the Kurds in the Vilayet of Van, I have the honour to state that there is scarcely any question on which I have so often spoken to Abédine Pasha as on the necessity of dealing vigorously with these robber bands, and putting an end to the licence which appears to exist. Before receiving the above despatches, giving me instructions to press the subject on the notice of the Porte, I had addressed to it the *note verbale* of which I inclose a copy. Since then I have repeatedly recurred to the continued accounts I receive as to the depredations committed. The system pursued by the Porte, in reply, is to state that there is much exaggeration in the reports received by me and by others, but that such outrages as may have occurred must be attributed to bands who have crossed over from Persia.

I have discussed the proposed Convention between Persia and the Sublime Porte for the repression of the incursions committed by the Kurds inhabiting the Turko-Persian frontier, but it appears that the negotiations are not likely to result in any definite action being taken unless they are transferred to Constantinople.

In the meantime, I have urged that the most energetic man on whom the Government could lay hands should be specially appointed to deal with the Kurdish difficulties, and supported with the necessary amount of troops. I repeated this suggestion in strong language to the Sultan when I had the honour of an interview with His Majesty last week.

His Majesty informed me that a plan was under consideration, and would be communicated to me in a few days, for the action of gendarmerie in the provinces in question, but that it was not yet determined whether that gendarmerie would be organized on the Dutch or the Roumanian model. A combination of the military and police duties had been introduced into the Roumanian system, which had struck him as effective.

But what appears most necessary to me, as I informed His Majesty, is the appointment of an officer who will be told that his credit is involved in being successful in suppressing the disorder.

His Majesty seemed impressed with the urgency of the case, and promised to give it his attention at once; but it is possible that he may have been told since that the Vilayet of Van is comparatively quiet.

The spirit in which the Turkish authorities seems disposed to meet such representations as I am making on this and similar topics is disclosed by the inclosed copy of a telegram given to the First Dragoman yesterday.

A Turkish paper of some influence not long ago stated in one of its articles that the Kurds were much more deserving of interest than the Armenians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Embassy has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the extract from a Report from the Governor-General of Van respecting the state of affairs at Bach Kalé, which the Sublime Porte has been good enough to communicate to it.

Her Majesty's Embassy regrets to state, however, that the favourable view taken by his Excellency of the present condition of that district is not borne out by the Reports of Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van.

That officer states that at the commencement of last month the entire population of three villages in the neighbourhood of Bach Kalé arrived at Van, being unable to remain at home on account of the depredations of the Kurds, especially of the men of Ali Khan, and that on the 18th May a large body of refugees came in from the same district in a state of utter destitution, reporting that Ali Khan had made another raid and entirely stripped their villages. He adds that a deputation had come in from Argish and El Jivas, complaining of the conduct of the Kurds in that region. They

state that although the villagers in those parts have plenty of corn they are almost reduced to famine, as they dare not send their corn to the mills to be ground lest it should be carried off by the Kurds, and that the latter break into the houses and plunder and are pasturing their flocks on the young corn. They add that if this destruction of the young corn is not prevented there will be no harvest this year, and as those districts are the granary of the region, serious consequences will ensue.

Another deputation subsequently came in from El Jivas, bringing a petition signed both by Turks and Christians, and countersigned by the Kaïmakam, begging for aid, as the Kurds called Zozouli, a branch of the Haidaranli tribe, had come down, encamped themselves in the fields of young corn, on which they were pasturing their flocks, and were robbing houses, villages, and mills in all directions.

Captain Clayton states further that reports reach him daily from all sides of fresh robberies and outrages on the part of the Kurds, and expresses his conviction that there is great risk of large districts being absolutely laid waste by them.

At Akhtamar especially the danger appears great, the Kurds in that neighbourhood having been greatly encouraged by the release of the Chiefs who had been arrested by Abédine Pasha, and believing that they may now commit any outrage with impunity.

He reports that the pressure of famine is increasing, and the price of corn has nearly doubled itself within a few days; that the Commissioners had received information that the Mutessarif of Musch had been giving corn from the Government stores to the Mufti, Cádi, and other rich and influential persons, whilst not distributing grain to the poor, and making difficulties about sending what has been asked for by Van.

In view of this condition of affairs, Her Majesty's Embassy cannot doubt that the Sublime Porte will see the necessity of sending stringent orders to its authorities at Van to take the necessary steps for the protection of the peaceful inhabitants against the oppression of their Kurdish neighbours, and for the relief of the suffering population.

Since writing the above, a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, who has recently visited Van. He states that the Kurds have plundered about twenty Kurdish and Christian villages in the Hakkiari district during the last three months, their last incursion having taken place as recently as the 20th June last. He represents the necessity of urging the Persian authorities to prevent their Kurds crossing the frontier, the Turkish troops being quite insufficient to prevent raids.

Major Trotter adds that the appointment of Tribunals and the formation of a gendarmerie in the new Vilayet of Bitlis has been deferred till next year owing to want of money; that sixty prisoners accused of capital crimes are in gaol, and that no Courts exist to try them, and that famine is still committing frightful ravages in the districts of Bash Keli, Bargazid, and Hakkiari.

Her Majesty's Government earnestly trust that the Sublime Porte may be able to show that they possess sufficient strength and authority to deal at once with this deplorable state of things, in which the most recent telegraphic information shows that no improvement takes place.

(Signed) G. J. GOSCHEN.

Therapia, June 21, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Hassan Pasha to Kadri Pasha.

Le 13 Juillet, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

REÇU télégramme du 2 Juillet (v.s.). Conformément aux ordres de votre Altesse j'ai adressé les recommendations nécessaires au Mutessarif de Hakiari, aux Caïmacams, et aux Chefs de tribus. J'ai en même temps invité particulièrement le Mutessarif à se rendre en personne dans les localités où sa présence serait nécessaire et à vouer toute son attention au maintien de l'ordre et de la sécurité publique. D'autre part, en me servant d'intermédiaires sûrs, j'ai prévenu sur un ton énergique les Chefs de tribes et autres d'avoir, vu les exigences de la situation et des lieux, à éviter des actes pouvant donner lieu à des plaintes.

Dans le vilayet il n'est passé jusqu'à présent, Dieu merci, rien qui mérite d'être noté. Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, des personnes malintentionnées cherchent à exagérer outre mesure le moindre incident. Mais l'enquête ne tarde pas souvent à rétablir la

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vérité ; nous avons soin de divulguer au fur et à mesure la nature et l'importance de chaque cas.

Ainsi, dans la nuit du Jeudi dernier, on a fait grand bruit d'une affaire où l'on disait que les brigands auraient enlevé 800 moutons de Gédi Kilissa, à deux heures de distance de Van. Ce bruit a trouvé même de l'écho au Consulat de Russie. Aussitôt deux colonnes ont été expédiées sur les lieux afin de se livrer à des investigations.

En ce moment, le nombre des moutons enlevés se réduit, toujours au dire des prêtres de l'église, à trente. Cette manière d'exagérer l'importance d'un petit incident corrobore ce que j'ai eu l'honneur d'exposer plus haut à votre Altesse.

No. 39.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 41. Political.) *Aleih, July 29, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting further on the punishment of the culprits connected with the recent occurrence at Caiffa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. Goschen.

Aleih, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch of the 15th instant, in which I stated that Vassif Effendi Clicion, Secretary to his Highness Midhat Pasha, and Djemal Eddin Effendi, Inspector of Justice, had proceeded to Caiffa to make further inquiry into the recent disturbance, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. Vice-Consul Schmidt reports to me that on the arrival of those gentlemen they were immediately applied to by the condemned Mussulmans for a revision of the sentence against them, and the result was that within forty-eight hours the sentence was annulled, and fourteen of the culprits, including the three ringleaders, were liberated. The punishment awarded under the new sentence to those found guilty has been reduced in every instance, the longest term of imprisonment allotted being twelve months and the shortest fifteen days. Mr. Schmidt points out the disproportion in the reduction of the sentences against the cavasses implicated and that of the other Mussulmans, and attributes the severity shown to the former to spite, because they had been in the enjoyment of foreign protection. Mr. Schmidt further states that the effect of the revision of the sentence by the Inspector of Justice has been to completely intimidate Selim Effendi Melki, the Procureur-Général for the district of Acre, who acted so promptly and energetically in causing the arrest of and bringing to justice the culprits in the first instance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 40.

Earl Granville to Consul Henderson.

(No. 6.) *Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.*

Sir,

I APPROVE your having made a tour in the district of Gisser Schoghl to inquire into the condition of the Armenians who had complained to you of their treatment by the Turkish authorities, and I sanction your charging the expenses of your journey in your quarterly account.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 41.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 220.) *Therapia, August 6, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship the copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Stewart, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Konieh, on the subject of the present state of that vilayet generally, but more especially the insecurity caused by Circassian immigrants and the insufficient military force at the disposal of the authorities to cope with the difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

Konieh, July 22, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that lately riots have occurred at Ak Serai and Eregli between the Teherkess and the other inhabitants of those places. In the former town one Teherkess and one Armenian were killed.

2. On the 17th instant I brought the matter to the notice of his Excellency the Vali, who informs me that he is going to change the Kaimakam of Ak Serai, who, to say the least of it, appears to have been wanting in energy; also that he has reinforced the police at both those places and reduced the numbers of the Teherkess by bringing many of them here. It is to be hoped that these measures may prove effectual.

3. I must, however, point out to your Excellency that, until some measures are taken towards finally settling the Teherkess, such riots will constantly be liable to recur. In this respect nothing whatever has yet been done. The Central Government has not yet even decided whether the Teherkess are to be allowed to form villages of their own, or whether they are to be divided off among the Turkish villages. Most contradictory orders are sent from Constantinople. Lately, acting under instructions, the Vali selected sites for villages and had made preparations to build, when orders again came that the Teherkess were to be told off among the Turkish villages. By the same order he was also directed to discontinue the issue of rations after two months. The Vali has declined to carry out these orders, stating that as long as he has no force at his command he is unable to enforce them.

4. As regards a military force, the Government here has repeatedly applied for a cavalry regiment, but so far without any success. The Sublime Porte, I am informed, some months ago requested the military authorities to send a regiment to Konieh, but the request was disregarded. It is evident that, until the local authorities have some force at their disposal, they can do but little towards maintaining the peace.

5. I would beg to point out to your Excellency how ruinous to the best interests of the country and to the prestige of the Government is the present very lawless state of things. As regards trade, it is not so much the actual losses that are incurred as the fear and terror it causes to traders, mule drivers, &c. I have myself, on some occasions, found, owing to this cause, some difficulty in hiring horses, the owners fearing to be robbed of them on the return journey. As for the effect upon the Teherkess, it is, of course, most unfortunate. Instead of being taught habits of order, industry, and obedience to law, they are being turned into highwaymen and robbers, and are acquiring a feeling of contempt for the Ottoman Government and nation which I have frequently heard them express. They state they would gladly welcome any foreign Government even the Russian. In this, however, they are not alone: the same feeling pervades a large and apparently increasing portion of the Mahomedan population. Many appear to look upon the ease of their own Government as irretrievably hopeless. At the same time, I do not wish to convey the impression that there is not also a very strong and powerful leaven of fanaticism which could be easily stirred up.

6. That the Teherkess are capable of becoming useful and improving settlers their present condition in the Aziziah district of the Sivas Vilayet amply proves. There they have been established since the days of the Crimean War. Their villages are decidedly superior in cleanliness and general comfort to the ordinary Anatolian village. The town itself is rapidly increasing in size and prosperity, and has an appearance of energy and life about it that is rare to find in Anatolian towns. During

my stay, all evidence concurred in stating that the Teherkess residents were, on the whole, orderly, although it was not denied that a year or two ago they had given a good deal of trouble.

7. As for this emigration question, I can see but two courses open to the Government—either to allow the Teherkess to build villages of their own, or to strengthen the hands of the Local Governments and divide the Teherkess among the different Turkish villages.

8. The original number of emigrants, Teherkess and others, in this vilayet, was estimated last year at 18,000. They are now reduced by death and other causes to 9,000. For this great loss the Imperial Government is mainly responsible.

9. I regret also to have to inform your Excellency that the locusts are making considerable progress in this vilayet. They have now spread as far as Ortakeuy, a village to the north-west of Bor, in the east of the vilayet. This is, I believe, the first time they have ever appeared so far east. It is reported that efforts are being made to destroy them.

10. To the north, in the Khudavendighiar Vilayet, the destruction caused by these insects is said to be simply appalling; large tracts of country are swept perfectly bare, not even a stalk left standing; and even large towns, such as Eski Schehr, are invaded. It is difficult to know how to deal with this plague. To destroy the eggs is contrary to the religious prejudices of many. As a means of destruction many put their faith in the locust bird. With reference to this bird there is a curious superstition; it is believed that it follows the water of a certain well in the Angora Vilayet. Priests and other holy men have worked this superstition to their own profit, and certain dervishes wander about the country with this water, and are, of course, well paid by the credulous peasantry. That this superstition obtains in even the highest official circles is evident by a telegram received here not long ago praying that a holy dervish, with the needful water, might be dispatched to a certain province. There can be no doubt that this bird, when in sufficient numbers, destroys many locusts; but to make any real impression other and more powerful means are also necessary. For some years to come, in the early autumn and spring, the peasantry ought to be vigorously employed in destroying locust eggs. To have this carried out effectually the peasants should be paid so much per oke. Here the old difficulty of finding honest and straightforward officials is met with. Granting that the Government would set aside a large sum of money for this purpose, there can be no question that the money would be diverted from its legitimate purpose and find its way into the official pocket—as many certificates, papers, and mazbatas as judged necessary would be signed and certified to by officials and Notables, setting forth that so many thousand or million okes of eggs had been destroyed, when in reality nothing, or next to nothing, had been done.

11. Whether the prospect of starvation, loss of revenue, depopulation, &c., will move the people and Government to exert themselves, remains to be seen. Personally I have no doubt many telegrams, orders, and other official documents will be exchanged between the capital and the provinces, but that anything effectual can or will be done by the present officials and under the present system is exceedingly improbable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 42.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 222.) *Therapia, August 6, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch to me No. 240 of the 14th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Henriquez, the Treasurer of the Armenia, Kurdistan, and Western Persia Famine Fund (known as Lady Strangford's Fund), I have the honour to suggest that your Lordship would request that gentleman to specify more precisely the particular districts in which, according to information received by the Fund Committee, there exists a fear that a large amount of this year's harvest may be seized in payment, not only of the current taxes, but also of those due for past years.

It appears to me that such information as to the particular localities where such measures are contemplated would enable me to act with a better chance of success in

any representation I may address to the Porte on the subject; but, as your Lordship is aware, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has denied that there is any intention to seize any portion of the crops in the famine-stricken districts for arrears, and that His Majesty the Sultan told me that such a course should certainly not be adopted.

It is so difficult to ascertain the truth about occurrences in various parts of Asia Minor that it is particularly necessary to be furnished with particulars where complaints are made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S. *August 8.*—I inclose herewith a copy of a telegram which I have received from Captain Clayton respecting the conduct of the authorities as regards the collection of taxes. I shall press the Porte upon the subject, and will endeavour, through a confidential channel, to communicate the substance of this telegram to the Sultan.

G. J. G.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) (Extract.) *Van, August 7, 1880.*

I HAVE not heard that Turkish authorities contemplate seizing a large amount of present harvest for arrears, but they are pressing peasantry hard for taxes. Money given as relief has been sometimes seized for taxes. If further information reaches me I will telegraph.

No. 43.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 232.) *Therapia, August 9, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Konieh, reporting the receipt of orders by the local authorities to forward men and money to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Vice-Consul Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.) *Konieh, July 29, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that yesterday, the 28th instant, a telegram in cypher reached the authorities here, ordering them to discontinue the payment of all havalés and salaries, and to forward all money with the least delay to Constantinople.

2. I am also informed that orders have come calling out the men who were drawn this year for military service. I am informed that arrangements are being made to send them to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

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No. 44.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 236.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 10, 1880.*

I FORWARD to your Lordship to-day a copy of the draft answer on the Armenian question which the Representatives of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin have unanimously agreed to, and recommend to their Governments.

It differs but little from my original draft. Some additions were suggested by M. Novikoff, which I at once accepted. Some of them appeared scarcely necessary, and as to one touching the election of the gendarmerie I was very doubtful, but as his Excellency had cordially accepted the whole of my draft *en bloc*, I did not wish to raise any objection.

The reply is long, but my colleagues agreed with me in considering that there were other considerations besides an answer to the Porte to be taken into account. The note, if accepted by the Powers, will embody a programme of reform which they consider indispensable, and it will be studied by the Armenians with at least as much attention as by the Turks.

M. Tissot and myself carefully considered whether we could make any curtailments, but there was no topic which we thought it expedient to omit.

The note contains a statement of certain principles which should be embodied in any reforms to be made, but it is silent as to the guarantees which might be demanded for carrying them out.

Your Lordship is aware of the views of Colonel Wilson that a European Commission of Superintendence alone would secure the execution of reforms.

The Armenians loudly contend that nothing short of a Governor selected, or at least guaranteed, by the Powers would suffice to give them real protection.

It appears to me that these are points on which there must be a previous agreement among the Cabinets before the Ambassadors here could put forward any proposals.

Would it be possible to induce the Powers to come to an arrangement as to the Governor similar to that in the Lebanon? Would they be prepared to force such an arrangement upon the Porte?

I have not ventured to raise these points at present, because it appears to me that the action of the Powers on this question can scarcely be settled till the final attitude of the Porte towards the Powers in the Montenegrin and Greek questions has become apparent.

In the meantime, it appears all important to make progress with the approximative census, which would establish what the real numbers of the Armenians are.

Colonel Wilson and Major Trotter will be here very shortly, and I propose to discuss the question exhaustively with them. The suggestions of your Lordship in your telegram No. 330 seem to afford a certain basis.

I gather from Abédine Pasha, whom I sounded on the subject, that he would quite accept an examination of the documents showing the number of Mussulmans liable to conscription on the one hand, and the number of Christians paying exemption tax on the other. He further suggested a verification of those lists by actual counting in various villages. I found an influential Armenian, to whom I also broached this mode of taking a census, far less disposed to proceed on it, and it is on the part of the Armenians that difficulties are likely to be raised. They will dispute the correctness of the Government lists, and they will further allege that the Christians often evade the payment of the taxes.

I will not fail to examine this question thoroughly. If I am not mistaken, the Government will allege that the figures given in their note are taken from official lists.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Draft of Collective Note to the Porte.

[For Collective Note, as presented, see Inclosure 1 in No. 113.]

No. 45.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 19. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, July 23, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with the previously-obtained sanction of Her Majesty's Ambassador, I left Diarbekir for Erzeroum on the 4th June last.

Being in bad health, it was my original intention to make my way to Erzeroum by the tolerably direct route of Saert and Bitlis, and from Erzeroum to hurry home; but having, while at Bitlis, received telegraphic intimation that another 1,000*l.* had been placed at my disposal from Lady Strangford's fund for famine relief, and having also learned from Captain Clayton, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, who had met me, according to instructions, at Saert, that his Holiness Mar Shimoun, the Patriarch of the Nestorians, was shortly expected at Van, I decided to alter my plans, and proceed direct to that place. Fortunately the journey to Bitlis had so improved my health that I was able to proceed to Van without risk.

Captain Clayton met me at Saert (a sandjak of the Bitlis Vilayet) on the 9th June, and after a stay of two days we proceeded together to Bitlis, the headquarters of the newly-formed vilayet of that name. Halting two days only at Bitlis, to make the acquaintance of the new Vali, and to make certain arrangements for famine relief, we marched to Van along the southern border of the lake.

Reaching Van on the 21st June I remained there till the 29th, having meanwhile had frequent interviews with the Nestorian Patriarch, who had come to Van for the express purpose of seeing Her Majesty's Representative; with Samich Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Corps d'Armée; with my old friends Yusuf Pasha and Serkis Effendi, the Imperial Commissioners for Reform in the Erzeroum and Van Vilayets; with Hassan Pasha, the Vali of Van; the Armenian Bishop and late ex-Patriarch Khrimian, and other persons of influence. Although this was my first visit to Van, I had thus ample opportunities of verifying the accuracy of the numerous and well-written despatches of Her Majesty's Vice-Consul relative to the state of affairs in the vilayet.

On leaving Van I instructed Captain Clayton to proceed to Bashkaleh and the Nestorian country, to distribute personally 600*l.*'s worth of grain that I had purchased at Bitlis. I myself passed through the famine country north of Van, round the north-east end of the lake, and then through the Haideranli country, by Patnos to the Alashgerd Plain; thence to Zewin on the Russo-Turkish frontier, where I had hoped to meet General Sir A. Hamley and the Delimitation Commission.

On learning that the General had been delayed at Erzeroum I hurried on to the latter place, where I arrived on the 11th July.

On the following day General Hamley left for the frontier, accompanied by his staff. Captain Everett, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, also started with General Hamley, and has my permission to accompany the Boundary Commission as long as it is employed in demarcating the frontier of the Erzeroum Vilayet. It is anticipated that this will occupy about three weeks.

As I am shortly about to proceed to Europe I will not now trouble your Lordship with any long detailed account of my journey. There are, however, a few matters of importance that have come under my notice on which I propose to address your Lordship in separate despatches, viz.:—

1. The state of the famine districts.
2. My interviews with the Nestorian Patriarch.
3. The state of the newly-formed Vilayet of Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 46.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 20. Political.)

Erzeroum, July 24, 1880.

My Lord,

IN the course of my recent journey from Diarbekir to Erzeroum I passed through the newly-formed Vilayet of Bitlis.

Your Lordship is doubtless aware that with the view, I presume, of finding employment for some of the numerous officials displaced on account of recent loss of territory consequent on the late war, the Porte has lately broken up some of the larger vilayets to form entirely new districts.

Thus, within my own Consular jurisdiction, two fresh vilayets have been formed, viz., Kharput and Bitlis.

The Kharput Vilayet is composed of the former independent Mutessariflik of the same name, to which will probably be added the Malatia Sandjak of the Diarbekir Vilayet. Although the Vali of Kharput had arrived at his post when I left Diarbekir, yet the limits of the new vilayet had not then been finally decided on.

I found on arrival at Bitlis, however, that the territorial changes were in a more advanced state than at Kharput.

The new vilayet is divided into three sandjaks, viz., Bitlis, Moosh, and Saert.

The limits of the former correspond with what was until lately the Bitlis Caza of the Moosh Sandjak of the Vilayet of Van.

The remainder of the old Moosh Sandjak now forms the province of the same name.

The district is completed by the addition of Tchabakchoor, a district lying north of the Moorad Su, and formerly under the Kharput Government.

The Saert Sandjak has been taken bodily from the Diarbekir Vilayet, and transferred to Bitlis.

The formation of a new vilayet out of three others must necessarily be attended with a certain amount of confusion, but I was not prepared for the utter disorganization which I found to exist, more especially in the central district of Bitlis.

I found there Aarif Pasha, the Vali, an official in whose favour I was, I regret to say, not prepossessed by either what I saw or heard. I fear he will prove to be one of the most incompetent of Valis. He has occupied his new post for about six months.

The new Defterdar of the vilayet had also arrived, at the same time, I believe, as the Vali.

The local Tribunals of justice had not yet been formed, and I was told on excellent authority that there were sixty persons in prison charged with murder or robbery, and there was no Tribunal in existence which could even so much as undertake a preliminary inquiry as to the guilt or innocence of the accused.

I also learned while at Van that the Sublime Porte had telegraphed orders that owing to financial difficulties the formation of the new Courts at Bitlis was not to be proceeded with until next March.

Immediately on arrival at Van I exposed this disgraceful state of things to the Imperial Commissioners of Reform, who, I understand, immediately put themselves in communication with the Central Government on the subject, with what result I have yet to learn, but as the Inspector-General of Justice for the Vilayets of Van and Bitlis was, when I last heard of him, on a special political mission to Sheikh Ubeydullah in the extreme south-east of the Hekkiari province of Van, it will, I fear, be long before the new Courts are in working order.

The zaptieh or gendarmerie force of the vilayet next claims attention.

This force possesses an English Mafettish or Inspector, Colonel—or, as he is designated in his official papers, Mr.—Norton, an Alai Bey or Colonel, a certain Husni Bey—whom I knew well as an excellent officer of artillery during the late war—a Binbashi or Major, sent with the other officers from Constantinople, and another Binbashi, a creature and confidant of the Vali. This distinguished force of officers has, unfortunately, only a few zaptiehs of the old school under command, the financial embarrassment of the Government precluding for the present any attempt at the formation of a reformed gendarmerie. The English officer, unprovided even with a Firman, has no executive authority whatever of any kind, and possesses merely the empty privilege of corresponding direct with the Minister of War, who pays no attention whatever to his requests.

The Vali simply ignores his authority *in toto*, and unless Her Majesty's Ambassador

at Constantinople can obtain for Colonel Norton a position of greater influence it would be better for the English reputation that Captain Norton, and any other officers who may be similarly situated, be withdrawn from the provinces. The Porte has sent him adrift absolutely, refusing to provide even a Firman, the sole symbol of authority in these provinces; and an incompetent and obstructive Vali can and does render his position a most humiliating one.

The Sandjak of Saert, thanks to the presence of Salih Pasha, the Governor, an active and energetic Albanian, is apparently much better governed than the central province. I heard while there, however, complaints both loud and deep against the Mufti and the Procureur-Général, Fatih Effendi, who, with one or two men of great local influence, are said to wield an enormous power, which is almost invariably exercised for evil.

Although the sandjak was fairly quiet when I passed through it, it is doubtful whether it will continue so long, as Bisheri, on the extreme south-west of the province, is the residence of the famous wholesale murderer, Muste Kuto, the head of the powerful Rajkotanli tribe, whose recent escape from Sivas I alluded to in my despatch No. 16, Political, of the 27th May. This Chieftain arrived in his native country just before I passed through, and the tribe was celebrating his return with feastings and rejoicings within a few miles of my tents.

That no attempt has as yet been made by the authorities to rearrest him is but another proof, if such were wanted, of the extreme feebleness of the Government in these provinces.

The Province of Saert is peculiarly interesting in a philological point of view. The inhabitants of the city of Saert—numbering some 10,000 souls—are of Arab descent, and all speak Arabic, whilst the Kurdish language is spoken in all the surrounding villages, whether Moslem or Christian (including Armenian, Syrian, and Chaldean villages).

The third sandjak, that of Moosh, is one of the worst ordered in the whole country. I did not pass through it, however, and will therefore make no special mention of it here. Towards the end of April last disturbances of a somewhat serious nature (directed, as in so many other places about the same period, against the authorities) took place in connection with the depreciation of the currency and the dearness of provisions.

It would appear from the foregoing that the crying and immediate wants for the new Province of Bitlis are:—

1. The early formation of Courts of Justice.

2. The early formation of the long-promised gendarmerie; and in connection with this latter matter, I would respectfully beg the special attention of Her Majesty's Ambassador to the necessity of obtaining some better official status for the solitary Englishman now residing in Bitlis with the empty title of Inspector of Gendarmerie.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 47.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 21. Political. Confidential.)

Erzeroum, July 26, 1880.

My Lord,

WHILST at Van, on my recent tour, I had two interviews with his Holiness, Mar Shimoun, the Patriarch of the Nestorians.

It was the first occasion for many years that the Patriarch had left his mountain home at Kochannes to visit Van, and I was given to understand that his principal object in doing so was the wish to have personal interviews with Her Majesty's Representative.

I have, at various times during the past two years, been in correspondence* with his Holiness, who, as your Lordship is aware, is the spiritual and temporal head of at least 80,000 Christians residing near the Persian frontier of Asiatic Turkey.

Mar Shimoun on the 25th January, 1880, addressed a letter to Lord Salisbury (copy of which was sent to me by his Lordship's order), the chief object of which was apparently to obtain his Lordship's assistance in securing the realization of an alleged promise of his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury to send some clergymen as missionaries to the Nestorians.

* Chiefly of a complimentary nature.

In his interviews with me his Holiness again pressed this point, and begged that I would do what lay in my power to secure the speedy advent of the missionaries, who were, I believe, promised by the Rev. Mr. Cutts, who visited the Nestorian country two or three years ago, on the part, I believe, of some English Religious Society.

I promised to address your Lordship on the subject, and I would respectfully request that a copy of this portion of my despatch be communicated to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Knowing, however, as I do the active opposition made by Mar Shimoun to the teaching of the American Presbyterian Missionaries, who some years ago were in possession of his field, and the hostility he has generally displayed towards them, I cannot but suppose that this ardent desire for the presence of missionaries of the Anglican Church is due to the expectation that their presence will afford political support rather than spiritual advantages.

There is no doubt, however, that the Nestorians are extremely ignorant, and that in matters of education they are far behind the rest of the world. Any movement, therefore, that will give them the advantages of superior education, cannot fail to be beneficial to the country.

Perhaps I might be permitted to suggest to his Grace that it is very desirable that men of a liberal turn of mind be selected for this mission, and not narrow-minded individuals who, by their hostility to the American Missions, already in sole possession of the surrounding field, may probably do more harm than good.

There was another personal matter, on which his Holiness appeared even more keen than in his wish for Anglican Missionaries.

Some twenty years ago Mar Shimoun was promised by the Turkish Government a monthly allowance of 1,050 piastres; although a small sum this allowance, under some pretext or another, has never been paid. The Patriarch, along with the Christians of his flock, have for years past been getting poorer and poorer, owing to the misgovernment of the Turkish officials and the pillaging and murderous propensities of some of the neighbouring Kurdish tribes. Extraordinary as it may seem, I do believe that even this miserable sum is a matter of some moment to the Patriarch, and it may be that a few words from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, addressed to the proper authorities, might secure that a peremptory order be given to the Van authorities to pay up arrears and make regular payments in future. Should his Excellency take this step I should hope to be informed that he has done so.

The Patriarch also discussed with me the general state of his country.

The Nestorians are divided into two classes—the Ashireth or tribal Nestorians, and the Rayahs or cultivators; the former, who are about twice as numerous as the latter, principally inhabit mountain fastnesses, which they have generally managed to keep free of Government officials and hostile Kurds; their taxes being paid through the Patriarch; while the Rayahs live generally in the plains, and are freely exposed to the exactions and oppressions of the authorities and the marauding incursions of hostile Kurds.

I will not now enter into details on these subjects. Captain Clayton is, I believe, at this moment in the Nestorian country, and will, I hope, collect ample materials for a full and exhaustive report on its condition.

The general complaints made by the Nestorian Rayahs resolve themselves under three heads, the same as are to be heard in many other parts of the country.

1. The exactions of the Government officials who extort far more than is justly due.

2. Lands belonging to Christians have in the course of time been gradually taken possession of and monopolized by influential Moslem Chiefs.

3. Government takes no proper measures to preserve their lives and property from incursions of hostile Kurds.

This last complaint is also bitterly re-echoed by the Ashireth Nestorians. The source of these evils is of course to be found in the general mis-government which exists everywhere in these provinces, and can only be got rid of here or elsewhere by the most radical measures. I told the Patriarch that Captain Clayton was about to visit his country and see with his own eyes its actual state, which he will fully expose to Her Majesty's Government. I also assured the Patriarch that the Powers of Europe were now combining at the instance of Her Majesty's present Government to concert measures for the effectual reform of the administration of these provinces, and I bid them have patience, but, alas! I have been preaching patience everywhere for the last two years, and both my listeners and myself are getting tired of the word.

The Patriarch is a pleasant-looking and agreeable mannered personage, about 40 years of age. He visited all the principal Turkish officials at Van, and appears to have been well received by them, and to have created a fairly favourable impression.

As far as I can learn, however, his Holiness does not possess a great influence in his own country, where he is said to lead a dissolute life.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 48.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 388.) *Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 211 of the 3rd instant, informing me of the repeated representations which you have made to the Porte with a view to putting a stop to the depredations of the Kurds on the Turco-Persian frontier, and I entirely approve the note which your Excellency addressed to Abédine Pasha on the subject on the 21st of June, as well as your language to the Sultan on the occasion of your last interview with His Majesty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 49.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 391.) *Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.*

Sir,

MY attention has been called to Acting Consul-General Dickson's despatch No. 52, of the 29th ultimo, to your Excellency, reporting that the visit to Caiffa of Midhat Pasha's Secretary and the Inspector of Justice had resulted either in a complete annulment or a favourable revision of the sentences passed on those who had been convicted of taking part in the recent disturbances.

I have to request your Excellency, should you think it advisable at the present time, to bring to the notice of the Turkish Government this interference with the course of justice on the part of its officials, and the effect which it appears to have produced upon the local authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 50.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 22. Political.) *Hapsamané, Ordoo, July 28, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that, owing to Laz immigrants having been landed last week at Ordoo, as I reported from Trebizond, I decided to call first in that town.

Having been informed on my arrival there that they had already departed for the Nahié (Canton) of Hapsamané, which had been assigned for their residence, I started for that place, which I reached last night, first visiting, on my way here, the villages on the seashore and inland from whence Christians had emigrated, and intended to emigrate, to Russia.

I reserve the Christian emigration for the subject of a subsequent despatch, and shall speak here only of the Lazes, respecting whom I forward to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram in Turkish, there being no possibility to correspond in an European language through the telegraphic office at Ordoo:—

"2,296 Lazes, who arrived fourteen days ago by the "Assyr," are supported by the inhabitants of Hapsamané and Ooloobek. They being poor, and the Lazes desti-

tute, disorders are apprehended if the Porte should not take immediate measures. There are 4,000 kilés of Indian corn in the Government stores."

I stopped during the night of the 26th instant at the village of Kara-Kodja, Canton of Ooloobek, where, as well as in the neighbouring villages of Tsokou, Seydich, and Bahreldui, are located 120 families. With the exception of about twenty of them that can purchase provisions, the remainder are living at the expense of the inhabitants of the above-mentioned villages, which consist together of about 140 houses. The remainder of the Lazes are scattered in the villages bordering on the road between Kara-Kodja and Hapsamané, eight hours' distance, and are likewise maintained by the inhabitants, with the exception, perhaps, of about thirty families.

This situation cannot last long. The impoverished inhabitants of this district cannot continue to support the Lazes, whose maintenance during the last fortnight has already been a great drain on their resources.

The seven-eighths of the Lazes have not the means to support themselves, and the Porte has hitherto taken no measures to provide for their maintenance. As the Lazes will not allow themselves to starve, they must resort to robbery when the inhabitants stop the forced rations which they now issue to them.

In order to avoid the serious disorders which will not fail to be the consequence of the present situation, if it be allowed to continue longer, the Porte should give immediate orders for providing the immigrants with rations from the Government tithe stores, which contain 123,000 okes, or upwards of 6,000 kilés, of Indian corn, wheat, and barley. There are as many kilés of arrears due by the inhabitants, which will be collected on the gathering of the next crop, together with the tithe, amounting to another 6,000 kilés, making a total of 18,000 kilés of cereals.

It being reckoned that the Lazes require 1 kilé per month per head, and deducting 50 families, or 300 souls, that can provide for themselves, the available 18,000 kilés will be sufficient for their maintenance during nine months. Further provision must be made for the remaining five months, and also for the required seed for sowing their lands.

The Mudir of Hapsamané, who finds himself in a very difficult position, applied ten days ago for instructions, but hitherto has received no reply; and the more time elapses the more the situation becomes critical.

Good extensive unreclaimed lands have been discovered for the Laz immigrants at four and six hours distant from this Mudirlik, where it is stated they can settle without the least inconvenience for the inhabitants of the surrounding country.

The land is well watered, and covered with woods, which will allow the Lazes to erect their cabins without much trouble and loss of time, but the most essential of all requirements, food, is wanting, and they will not be able to provide for themselves before fourteen months, crops being gathered in September.

Hitherto they have behaved with great propriety. Having sold part of their cattle at Batoum (each family bringing with it only a cow, and sometimes a horse), they possess a little money with which they pay the transport of their movable property to the inland districts, and procure a few indispensable articles. But their cattle having been sold for nothing, their pecuniary resources are very limited, and 200 kilés of Indian corn seems to be the only article of food which they brought with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 51.

Vice-Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 10. Political. Confidential.)
Damascus, August 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting upon public affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 13. Confidential.)
Damascus, August 3, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Midhat Pasha has returned to Damascus from a tour which he has been making in Syria.

Permission having been lately given by the Porte to offer the tithes of Syria for the present year to public competition, the auctions of such are now being held throughout the country; and enhanced prices over last year, even at this eleventh hour, are being obtained in many instances.

Although much damage to the country has already resulted through the enrolment and partial operations of the legion of unpaid officials let loose over the country, in pursuance of the primary instructions of the Porte to collect the tithes on Government account, the heavy loss to the Treasury estimated to accrue thereby will be thus sensibly diminished.

Perhaps 40,000*l.* will cover the difference between what would have been realized if the tithes had been offered to public competition two months ago and what they will bring now that the harvests have been partially completed and garnered.

I may here mention that in the Mutessarifilik of Damascus, unlike other parts of Syria, oppression of the peasantry by the tithe-farmer does not exist. This is due, however, to reasons of a purely local character, and not, I need hardly say, to Governmental protection, or to the remissness of the tithe-farmer.

The harvests are proving abundant, with the necessary consequence of a considerable fall in prices, which already approach those prevailing in times of plenty.

In the public Departments the greatest confusion and irregularities continue to prevail to an extent describable only when reference is made to the state of the administration of justice, which I find it difficult to depict in language adequately strong.

The chief judicial functionaries, civil and criminal, with Public Prosecutors and Judges of Instruction, are banded together, according to the public voice for traffic in their duties. The complaints on this head are general and universal, and expressed openly and forcibly, without the slightest attempt at concealment.

My own experience, when I have the misfortune to be obliged to apply to the authorities in any case, fully bears out the justice of these universal complaints, and which, proceeding from a people who for ages have been accustomed to the evils of a corrupt Administration, point forcibly to the (of late) increased demoralization of the public Departments. A few years ago the leaders of the people considered it their duty, as followers of Islam, in their intercourse with the few native Christians and Europeans here, to palliate and excuse the shortcomings of Turkish officials; but this is now all past, and but one complaining voice is heard.

Besides the universal corruption, I may mention that a few nights ago the inhabitants of one of the Moslem quarters of Damascus complained to the police of the scandalous proceedings among them of a body of unknown men who had assembled for debauchery and immorality in a house. This offence, in a Moslem stronghold like Damascus, is invariably and energetically repressed and punished arbitrarily by the police, who, in consequence, at once broke into the house and discovered the culprits to be the Public Prosecutor-General for Syria, the Public Prosecutor for Damascus, the Judge of the Court of First Instance, and four other minor judicial employés. This incident, with all the details connected with it, at once became public property, was openly parodied in the Administrative Council, and has increased, if that were possible, the detestation of the people to their Turkish rulers.

Again, yesterday, I was informed by one of the most influential and respectable of the Ulema class, that these newly-appointed judicial functionaries had trumped up a false charge against a certain Moslem notable, and had imprisoned him, taking advantage of it to inveigle his wife, a woman of beauty, into their power, when they violated her in turn.

What truth there is in this charge I do not know. My informant believed it, and his position gave him the means of testing its accuracy. It, however, at all events tends to show the estimation in which Government officials are held by the people.

During the last few days, revolutionary placards have been posted up in Damascus,

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one of which I found on my door. It is written evidently by one of the Ulema class, part of it being couched in Koranic language, is addressed to the people as if by an outsider, and exhorts them to rise and shake off the rule of those who set the precepts of the Koran at nought, act as infidels, and have brought misery and ruin upon the true believers of Syria.

Little or no notice has been taken of these appeals, there being, so far as I can judge, no party or individuals in Syria to take the initiative in any overt act against the Government by reason of the absence of leaders, and the rivalries and jealousies of the numerous sects and *quasi* nationalities which divide the populations and render impotent for joint action in any direction the only bond of unity which binds them together, namely, detestation of Turkish rule.

In Damascus, for instance, the present Moslem notabilities and so-called leaders of the people are chiefly those forming the official *entourage* of the Government, and who have acquired riches and power by aiding, by their local experience and position, the acts of the stream of corrupt officials ever directed upon the province by Constantinople, nominally to administer, but in reality, so far as all past experience goes, to plunder, the country.

The few left, whether civil or ecclesiastical, are sunk in apathy and despair, taking care of what little they possess, and holding aloof, with distrust and suspicion, from all influences which they imagine may seek to operate any change in the face of things. To adopt the simile used to me the other day by one of the Ulema class, the position of Islam is now that of a China bowl which has been shattered into a thousand pieces, thus beyond the possibility of repair.

With respect to the small towns of the country, they are simply agricultural centres, possessing no political importance of any description, where the same kind of misgovernment goes on, but in a more primitive manner owing to the ignorance and poverty of the majority of their inhabitants, and, owing to their greater subjection to officials, with more facility.

The Governor-General, pending the receipt from Constantinople of what he considers adequate powers, continues to decline to interfere in or check the demoralization and corruption going on around him in Damascus on every side, alleging want of powers, and attempting to palliate such by pleas of inadequacy of salaries. Recourse to him in any matter is hopeless, especially when foreigners are concerned, and is availed of by him to endorse all complaints most fully and to ascribe them as the natural outcome of his paucity of powers. This policy of his Highness, and his studied abstention of all control of corrupt functionaries, the chiefs of whom take care that their adequate salaries are punctually paid, coupled with the fact that he can and does act without regard to "want of powers," have become notorious and proverbial in the country, and give rise to much unfavourable comment and vague conjectures as to his ultimate views and intentions.

As regards public tranquillity, little remains to be desired; the knowledge of the determination and energy in this direction of the Head of the Government (Midhat Pasha) being all-sufficient, as is usual in Syria, to awe the turbulent and to keep the police to their work.

Last week 700 men (Nizams of last year's conscription) were called in from their homes and sent off to Beyrout for embarkation for Constantinople, 600 of them belonging to the agricultural class, the remainder to the poorest of the Damascus population; little notice has been taken of this incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 52.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 13. Consular.)
Erzeroum, August 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in compliance with instructions received in recent telegrams, I leave to-morrow for Constantinople; I travel in company of his Excellency Baker Pasha, now also on his way to the capital.

We march (with tents) to Trebizond, and I expect to reach Constantinople in about a fortnight's time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 53.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 184.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 23, 1880.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Captain Clayton at Van:—

"Persian Government prohibits export of corn. Much would come into this country could prohibition be removed.

"Can you take any steps at Tehran?"

No. 54.

Earl Granville to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, August 23, 1880, 7 P.M.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reports that much corn would come into districts near Van suffering from famine if export of corn from Persia were not prohibited.

Do you think there would be any probability of obtaining removal or suspension of prohibition from Persian Government?

No. 55.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 238.)
Therapia, August 13, 1880.

My Lord,

MR. DICKSON, the Acting British Consul-General at Beyrout, has already furnished your Lordship with copies of his despatches Nos. 48, 50, and 52, respecting a disturbance that took place at Caiffa on the 27th June last between Moslems and Christians, in which several cavasses belonging to the different Consulates and Consular Agencies at that place appear to have been implicated, and I had the honour to forward, with my despatches Nos. 117 and 161 of last month, copies of two communications on the subject from Midhat Pasha to the Sublime Porte.

I now transmit a copy of a précis of a despatch addressed to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs by Midhat Pasha, which has been confidentially communicated to me through Sir A. Sandison, complaining of the exaggerated importance which, in his Highness' opinion, has been attached to this affair by Dr. Schmidt, the British Vice-Consul.

Irrespective of these communications from the Porte, I have been struck by the very significant fact of so many cavasses belonging to the Consulates being implicated against the Christians.

I have now instructed Mr. Dickson to call on Dr. Schmidt to explain how it happened that, in his first Report on the disturbance, he omitted to mention, as appears to have been the case, that a cavass belonging to the British Vice-Consul was implicated, and I have inquired on what grounds Dr. Schmidt affirmed that the revolt had been prepared beforehand, and was general on the part of the Mussulmans. The presence of the cavasses points rather to an ordinary street row.

I have likewise addressed a note to Abédine Pasha commenting on the Report of the case, as represented to the Porte by Midhat Pasha, in which I have called attention to the remission of the sentences passed on the ringleaders, and pointed out to his Excellency that such a course is calculated to create the impression that attacks, when made on Christians, are not severely punished. A copy of this note is inclosed herewith for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Précis of Despatch from Midhat Pasha to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated June 29 / July 11 1880.

Consulat-Général Anglais, Beyrouth.

(Confidentiel.)

J'AI eu l'honneur de rendre compte par télégraphe de l'incident de Caïffa. De pareils faits se produisent souvent dans les autres pays. Il ne s'agit que d'une rixe qui a éclaté entre les invités de deux noces, dont l'une Musulmane et l'autre Chrétienne qui, s'étant rencontrés dans une rue étroite, ont voulu se disputer le droit de préséance. Des cavass des Consulats à Caïffa qui se trouvaient parmi les invités ont fait usage de leurs armes, ce qui a entraîné quelques jeunes Musulmans à prendre part à la lutte. Huit Chrétiens ont reçu des blessures, de même que sept Musulmans et un policeman, qui a voulu s'interposer au milieu des combattants.

Aussitôt que l'autorité a eu avis de l'affaire, elle s'est portée sur les lieux avec le nombre de gendarmes disponibles. Elle a mis fin à la dispute, et le lendemain matin on a procédé à l'arrestation des principaux instigateurs.

Voilà, en deux mots, l'affaire telle qu'elle s'est passée, et bien que les cavass des Consulats aient été la cause principale de cet incident, M. le Dr. Schmidt, Consul d'Angleterre à Caïffa, a lancé un télégramme à son Ambassade, par l'entremise du Consulat-Général de Beyrout, dans lequel, sans expliquer les vrais motifs de l'incident, il se borne à dire que "les Musulmans de Caïffa, armés, tombèrent sur les Chrétiens; révolte préparée et presque générale de la part des Musulmans; huit blessés Chrétiens gravement. Autorité locale faible; craignons mal plus fort."

A la réception de ce télégramme, l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre a donné immédiatement des ordres, et l'on a détaché à la hâte deux vapeurs de Chypre pour les envoyer à Caïffa. Une fois arrivés, le premier de ces navires procéda à une enquête, mais s'étant aperçu que le Consul avait exagéré la portée de l'incident, et que les autorités avaient fait leur devoir, quitta Caïffa.

L'arrivée des navires Anglais, de même que la gravité que le Consul Britannique a attachée à cette affaire, qui n'en avait aucune, obligèrent les Français à lui donner aussi de l'importance, ce qui du reste était à prévoir, vu la politique qu'ils suivent en Syrie. Ils ont donc fait venir aussi à la hâte un navire du Pirée.

Comme les Tribunaux de Caïffa ne pouvaient pas arriver à examiner et à juger convenablement toutes les personnes impliquées dans l'affaire, j'y ai envoyé Bahaeddin Bey, Mektoubdjé du vilayet, en qualité de Délégué Spécial du Gouvernement, qui a pris passage à bord du bateau de guerre Français. J'ai su par télégraphie que tous les cavass lui ont été remis, avec le consentement des Consulats, pour être gardé en prison en attendant que leur procès, qui s'instruit, puisse se terminer.

Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de le dire, l'incident de Caïffa est une de ces affaires qui ont lieu très-communément en Turquie. Il n'a pas été prémédité, et s'est produit tout d'un coup à la suite d'un échange de gros mots. La dispute a été étouffée, les personnes compromises ont été arrêtées, et en aucune façon l'ordre et la tranquillité publiques n'ont été troublés.

En présence de ces circonstances je ne saurais m'expliquer l'attitude de M. le Dr. Schmidt, Consul d'Angleterre, qui, guidé par un sentiment de malveillance, a lancé le dit télégramme à son Ambassade pour jeter partout le cri d'alarme. Les faits relatés dans son télégramme étant inexacts, et surtout s'étant permis de calomnier tous les Musulmans, en les accusant de nourrir de mauvais desseins, M. Schmidt a fait franchement le contraire de ce qu'on attendait d'un Consul d'Angleterre. Désormais il a perdu le crédit et la confiance dont il jouissait. En conséquence, votre Excellence voudra bien prendre les mesures qu'elle jugera opportunes.

"*Consulat-Général Anglais, Beyrouth.*

"Nuit passée Musulmans de Caïffa armés tombèrent sur Chrétiens; révolte préparée et presque générale de la part des Musulmans. Huit blessés Chrétiens gravement. Autorité locale faible; craignons mal plus fort.

(Signé) "Dr. SCHMIDT.

"*Caïffa, le 28 Juin*, 1880."

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Mr. Goschen to Abédine Pasha.

Therapia, August 13, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE had the honour to receive the documents which have been communicated to me by the Sublime Porte with reference to the disturbance which took place at Caïffa on the evening of the 27th June last between two parties of Christians and Moslems, and in which several cavasses belonging to the foreign Consulates and Consular Agencies at that place were concerned.

In reply, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that I am in correspondence with Mr. Dickson, Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Beyrout, under whose jurisdiction the British Vice-Consulate at Caïffa is placed, in order to obtain further information with regard to the occurrences to which my attention has been called by your Excellency.

In the meanwhile, I beg leave to point out to your Excellency that the Vali of Syria is in error in supposing, as would appear was the case from his Report of the 22nd June to the Sublime Porte, that orders had been given by Her Majesty's Embassy for the dispatch to Caïffa from Cyprus of two vessels, the real fact being that on the 29th June, in consequence of the reports which reached him of the excitement prevailing at Caïffa, Mr. Dickson requested the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" to proceed to Caïffa, the "Bittern" returning from Caïffa on the 2nd July, having been relieved by Her Majesty's ship "Rapid."

The affair would appear to have assumed a more serious aspect than it would otherwise have done from the circumstance that cries were heard threatening the lives of the Christians, which, not unnaturally, caused alarm.

From the information which has now reached me I learn that, on the arrival at Caïffa of Vassif Effendi Clician, Secretary to his Highness Midhat Pasha, and Djemal Edhim Effendi, Inspector of Justice, who had been sent to investigate the matter on the spot, application was made to them by the Mussulmans, who had already been condemned for their share in the business, for a revision of the sentences pronounced against them, with the result that in 48 hours fourteen of the culprits, including the three ringleaders, were liberated, while the punishment awarded to those found guilty was reduced in every instance; the largest term of imprisonment allotted being 12 months, and the shortest 15 days. Moreover, there seems to have been a disproportion in the reduction of the sentences against the cavasses who were implicated and that of the other Mussulmans.

The remission of the sentence pronounced against the ringleaders can scarcely fail, I regret to say, to create the impression that attacks, when made on Christians, are not severely punished.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 56.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

Therapia, August 16, 1880.

(No. 247.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kaisarieh on the subject of the wanton destruction of trees in the Anti-Taurus Mountains. I shall speak to the Porte on the subject if an opportunity occurs, but fires of the same nature are constantly occurring on the hills in the vicinity of Constantinople, and the authorities appear powerless to prevent them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

Kaisarieh, August 3, 1880.

Sir,

I WISH to draw your Excellency's attention to the wholesale destruction of trees which is going on in the Anti-Taurus Mountains eastwards of Kaisarieh.

It seems to be the habit of the shepherds to kindle a fire at the trunks of resinous trees, like the cedar and the thick-barked pine, resembling our Scotch fir, and to burn the tree (many of the latter class magnificent specimens) as it stands. The fire extends some distance up the trunk, and, destroying the bark, the tree dies; the roots follow, and in a few years down comes the dead tree rotten and useless. I have little doubt that several trees are thus destroyed in a single night by the reckless improvidence of one of these Goths.

In some districts, especially on entering these beautifully wooded and exceedingly picturesque mountains about four hours beyond Tomarge in the direction of Shahr (Comanæ ruins), and between Hadjin and Gourgsun, and I have no doubt wherever the trees I have mentioned exist in the vicinity of villages or yailas, nearly all bear some traces of mutilation by fires; blackened stumps, charred and scorched trunks of trees, some dead, others dying, some still standing, while others have fallen, appear on all sides. In one place I noticed several acres of fine trees destroyed in a single night, by the fire having reached the branches and spread.

After passing through what may be described almost as treeless wastes the whole way from Eskishehr to Kaisarieh, and remarking the difficulty and expense of obtaining wood, and the inconvenience caused thereby, this melancholy and wanton destruction of timber struck one with particular force. I do not suppose, with the present improvident instinct of the inhabitants of Anatolia so predominant, and the insufficient supply of zaptiehs, that anything can be done to put a stop to the practice, but I think it right that the fact should be brought to your Excellency's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 57.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 252.) *Therapia, August* 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a *note verbale* which I have received from the Porte, complaining of the proceedings of Major Warlow in travelling about the country in the vicinity of Ada-Bazar, questioning the inhabitants as to their relations with each other and their aspirations, and as to the discharge of their duties by the local authorities, &c.

The Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs subsequently told Mr. Marinich, one of the Embassy Dragomans, that Kadri Pasha, the Prime Minister, had sent him a communication, dated the 28th July, stating that the Prefect of Constantinople had reported that an inquiry, which had been opened by Imperial order with a view to proving the intrigues alleged against Major Warlow, had established that he had made seditious publications through the medium of some persons whose names were known, but that, as the inhabitants did not lend credit to these publications, they had led to no result. His Excellency concluded by asking Abédine Pasha to take the proper steps with the British Embassy to induce them to adopt such measures as might be necessary with regard to Major Warlow.

I need not assure your Lordship that I did not for one moment give credit to such absurd charges. As shown by his own despatches, which I inclose for your Lordship's perusal, Major Warlow had been very active in his inquiries as to the state of affairs and the condition of the people in the Kaimakamliks of Ada-Bazar and Dusdschah, situated severally in the Sandjaks of Ismidt and Kastamuni, and had put himself into communication with many natives and Circassians, and the local authorities endeavoured to alarm the Central Government by reports of his proceedings.

With regard to the question of the settlement of the Circassian refugees in these districts and the excesses committed by them, I propose to address your Lordship in a separate despatch.

In an interview which I had with Abédine Pasha I took the opportunity of alluding to the communication which I had received from him as to Major Warlow, and pointed out their absurdity. He at once withdrew the suggestion of "publications" having been made, and said that the phrase had probably been used by an erroneous translation. It probably only meant "verbal communications," but that Major Warlow had put a number of questions, even to Turks, which gave rise to strange notions. He had even questioned them as to their worship in their mosques. I replied that probably there was a confusion between mosques and the places of worship of Armenian Christians.

With regard to the inquiries pursued by Major Warlow, I reminded his Excellency that, under the Cyprus Convention, reforms in Asia Minor had been promised by the Porte, and that it was both our right and our duty to examine to what extent they had been carried out.

At a subsequent interview with Kadri Pasha I also alluded to the subject. His Excellency likewise told me that a mistake had clearly been made about seditious publications. I have also heard, too, that the Prefect of Constantinople was inclined now to take a less serious view of the matter.

Your Lordship will gather how very sensitive the Turkish Government are with regard to such inquiries by the fact that, as I learn from a Circassian Chief employed by the Turks in the supervision of the Circassian refugees, a secret inspector was sent over to Ismidt and the neighbourhood by the Turkish authorities to ascertain whether it was true that Major Warlow had been sounding the Circassians and others as to their readiness to come under British sway.

This rumour seems to have been the cause of the anxiety shown by the Turkish authorities. Your Lordship is doubtless aware that, among the more ignorant classes of Turks, the presence and the activity of our military Consuls in Asia Minor created the impression that the English Government entertains annexationist designs as to that country.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of my reply to the *note verbale* of the Porte.

As Colonel Wilson, Her Majesty's Consul-General for Anatolia, is at present here, and as Major Warlow can visit Constantinople without much loss of time, I have instructed this latter officer to come here within the next few days, so that I might have the opportunity of discussing the state of his district and the best mode of continuing inquiries with Colonel Wilson and Major Trotter together.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 16 *Juillet*, 1880.

IL résulte des informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte que M. le Major Warlow, Vice-Consul de la Grande Bretagne en Anatolie, parcourt la contrée d'Ada-Bazar, et interroge les habitants sur leurs rapports entre eux, les aspirations qu'ils pourraient avoir, ainsi que sur le fonctionnement des autorités locales, et d'autres sujets encore. Des personnes intéressées ne manquent pas de profiter de la mission que cet Agent paraît s'attribuer de la sorte, pour l'induire en erreur sur la véritable situation des populations de ces parages.

Au surplus, les commentaires qui se font à propos de cette mission excitent les esprits et présentent des inconvénients qu'il importe de faire cesser au plus tôt.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères croit devoir par conséquent signaler le fait à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique, afin qu'elle veuille bien prendre les dispositions nécessaires pour y mettre un terme.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Mr. Goschen to Abédine Pasha.

Therapia, August 16, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

ON the 15th July your Excellency addressed a note to me with reference to Major Warlow, one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia, complaining of his traversing the country of Ada-Bazar and questioning the inhabitants as to their aspirations, as to the conduct of the local authorities, and other subjects.

Subsequently I have learnt that you communicated to one of our Dragomans the substance of a letter from the Prime Minister, in which the "intrigues" of Major Warlow are spoken of, and the assertion made that an inquiry had established that Major Warlow had given publicity to seditious statements.

In a conversation which I had the honour to have with your Excellency a week ago, I understood that your Excellency did not wish the latter charge to remain on record, and that consequently no further steps had been taken with regard to it. I have still to reply to the *note verbale* of your Excellency. I cannot admit any protest against the

right of inquiry possessed by our Vice-Consuls in Anatolia. Your Excellency stated to me, if I remember rightly, that there was only one British subject in the district of Ada-Bazar, but that is no reply to the assertion of the right on the part of our Consuls to make inquiry into the state of the population. Your Excellency cannot forget the solemn engagements entered into by the Porte towards Her Majesty's Government with regard to the execution of reforms in Asia Minor, and I further beg to recall to your Excellency that the state of the provinces inhabited by Armenians was made a special object of solicitude by the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin.

I regret to state that the inquiries of Major Warlow show a very deplorable state of things in the neighbourhood of Ada-Bazar. The presence of Circassians in large numbers in the Sandjak of Ismidt and in the neighbourhood of Ada-Bazar seems excessively oppressive to the inhabitants, and every kind of abuse seems to prevail unchecked. The property of many Armenian villages seems to have passed into the hands of Circassians; cattle, sheep, and horses seem to have been continually carried off, and no redress is obtainable from the authorities. Major Warlow states that the entire police in the Kaimakamlik of Ada-Bazar, which now contains 12,000 new refugees, consists of 1 officer and 12 zaptiehs. Major Warlow further states that during the whole of his inquiries he was unable to find a single case in which property lost had been recovered, or the guilty person brought to justice; and, under these circumstances, it is no wonder that the sufferers make no complaints to the authorities.

Major Warlow has communicated with so many persons himself, including Circassian Beys, local functionaries, and others, that it is impossible to contend, as there appears a disposition to do, that he has been misinformed. I inclose a memorandum giving further details. I leave it for your Excellency to judge how far the state of things described is in accordance with the undertakings of the Porte both towards England, under the Cyprus Convention, and towards the Signatories of the Berlin Treaty, under the LXIst Article of that instrument, and whether it is not a matter of urgent necessity to infuse more energy into the administration of those districts, and especially to take such measures as may be necessary to prevent the excesses of the Circassians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—I beg leave to transmit herewith a copy of a note which was addressed to your Excellency's predecessor by Sir H. Layard on the 6th September last year, commenting on the state of affairs in the district of Ada-Bazar.

Since that date a year has nearly now elapsed, and no improvement is visible in the condition of the district. On the contrary, the increase in the number of refugees must have tended to increase the evils complained of.

Your Excellency will not fail to observe that the information which has been supplied by Major Warlow only confirms the Reports which were received by Her Majesty's Embassy last year as to the state of affairs in the district of Ada-Bazar.

G. J. G.

Inclosure 3 in No. 57.

Major Picton-Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 3.) *Ada-Bazar, July* 13, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I left Constantinople by steamer on the morning of the 30th ultimo, and on the same evening reached Ismidt, where I remained for two days.

2. On the 1st instant I called on the Mutessarif to present my Berat for registration, and had some conversation with him regarding the state of the sandjak. He is on the point of leaving, having resigned his post on the plea of ill-health. It is quite true that he has been suffering a good deal from fever; but I hear that his real reason for leaving is disgust at being unable to obtain from Constantinople any support or assistance in governing his sandjak, which is said to be in a very disorganized condition.

3. During my first walk through the town I noticed a number of miserable-looking creatures—men, women, and children—huddled together in a large tumble-down set of stables; all were haggard, emaciated, and sickly; all were literally in rags. On inquiry, I learnt that they were a tribe of Abazye Circassians, about 1,000 in number, who had come into Ismidt from the neighbourhood of Ada-Bazar about a month ago. In the course of the day their Chief, Alexander, *alias* Beshan Bey, a quiet, well-bred old man, called to see me, and told me his story as follows:—"During the last Russian war about

5,000 Abazyes, including my own clan, were brought from Soukoum Kalé by the Turks, and turned adrift in this sandjak; some land was allotted to us, which we were told to cultivate, but we could do nothing without cattle and implements, with which we were not supplied. For the first year or two we managed to get on after a fashion; some of our men found employment as shepherds, cart-drivers, &c., and such of us as had brought money with us helped those who were in greatest need; but by degrees matters grew much worse; our money was all spent, and as the Turkish villagers themselves became poorer, our men were thrown out of employment; then came this last severe winter, during which we suffered terribly, many of our women and children dying. The amount of food allowed to us by the Government, viz., half an oke (about 1¼ lbs.) of meal for each grown-up person, and a quarter of an oke for each child, was not enough for us to live on, and even this pittance was often given very irregularly. Now, everything that we had is gone; we have sold many of our girls; how could we help it? they were starving, and so were we. We did not know what to do, so all came into Ismidt, to see if the Government would send us back to our own country again. All we want is to be sent back there, and allowed to take our chance under the Russians. I went to Constantinople a short time ago to see if I could get permission for our return, but none of the Pashas would even see me, and I had to come back again."

This account, so far as I can ascertain here, is perfectly true. The present condition of these unfortunate people is most pitiable, and immediate measures should be taken for their relief.

4. A party of Armenian peasants from the villages at the foot of the mountains on the south side of the bay came over to see me, and to represent the sufferings which they were undergoing at the hands of the Circassian refugees, 8,000 of whom have been located in their neighbourhood during the last war, in addition to a large number who settled there fifteen or twenty years ago. The new comers are very badly off, and, naturally enough, help themselves to all they can. Of 4,000 horses and cattle owned by the Armenian villagers two years ago, only about 200 remain; 480 were stolen, and the rest had to be sold off for what they would fetch; such at least are the numbers as given by the villagers, and they are probably not exaggerated, judging from what I have since learnt of the losses caused by the Circassians in other parts of the sandjak.

5. On the morning of the 3rd instant I left Ismidt, and, travelling viâ Sabandscha, reached Ada-Bazar on the following day. The road is, even now, hardly passable for laden carts, and in wet weather must, in many places, be little better than a morass; the worst piece is within a couple of miles of Ismidt, where two wooden bridges have broken down, and travellers are obliged to flounder through water and deep mud, in which one of my pack-horses stuck, and upset all his load.

6. A few miles out of Ada-Bazar I was met by the Cadi, who is acting as Kaimakam pending the arrival of the person who has been newly appointed to that post.

7. The next morning (Monday, the 5th instant) I was visited by the Armenian Gregorian Bishop and the Armenian Protestant clergyman, who, as representatives of their communities, brought to my notice the condition of the town, which, according to them, may almost be regarded as in a state of siege, inasmuch as no one can venture out for 3 or 4 miles without a very fair chance of being robbed by Circassians, 15,000 of whom have been located within the limits of this caza.

8. Soon after the Bishop had left, a peasant came in to complain that as he was driving a cart-load of grain he had been fired on by Circassians at a place about 6 miles from here, and obliged to run for his life, leaving cart, oxen, and grain to their fate. He had received a flesh wound in the side from a revolver bullet.

9. On Tuesday, the 6th instant, I called at the konak to return the Cadi's visit, and found that the new Kaimakam had arrived sooner than was expected. He is a man in the prime of life, but has had no experience in governing a district, having up to this time been employed in office-work in Constantinople. He professes great anxiety to carry out reforms, but begins badly, by assuring me that the present condition of this sandjak is quite satisfactory, and that everything I have heard to the contrary must be false.

On my return from the konak I was visited by the Persian and Greek Vice-Consuls, who fully confirmed what I had previously heard as to the state of the country in the immediate neighbourhood of this town. In the town itself there are no Circassians, the only refugees there being 100 families from Roumelia, who are tolerably well off.

10. On Thursday (8th instant) the Kaimakam returned my call, and I again told him that I heard of robberies and thefts committed on all sides; he assured me that it was all a mistake, and that from the information in his possession he was quite sure that nothing of the sort was going on. I then mentioned, as a proof of the insecurity of

the roads, that on my way from Ismidt I had myself been particularly struck by the entire absence of traffic on a road leading to the principal town and port of the sandjak; here again he was obliged to differ with me, he had been over the same road only two days later, and had seen quite a large number of carts and pack-horses; the traffic was quite as much as could be expected.

After this I said nothing, for it was perfectly clear that the new Kaïmakam was fully determined to find a model province, and would see nothing that he did not wish to.

11. Knowing that whatever I had from the Armenians here would be put down as false, I determined to see things for myself and, at first, to obtain my facts from Turks, and Turks only; so on the 9th and 10th instant I rode out without even a zaptieh, taking only my Dragoman and a guide, and visited six or eight villages, all exclusively Turkish, situated on the other side of the Sangarius River, within 7 or 8 miles of the town. I was out from 5 A.M. to 1 or 2 P.M. each day, and talked to a good number of people, just as I came across them, on the road or in their villages; every one I spoke to gave the same answer, and there was scarcely one who had not his own special tale of wrong sustained at the hands of the Circassians, who are simply "eating up" the the country. I have given in Appendix (A)* the statements of the men, almost verbatim, as I took them down in my note-book at the time. I will not trouble your Excellency with such details in future, but I am anxious at first start to let you hear the statements of the people just as they are made to me; by way of comment I will merely say that not a single man attempted to exaggerate his grievances or to gain my sympathy by dwelling on them; the poor fellows spoke rather in a tone of resigned despair, as if they had ceased to struggle against their fate, and were utterly hopeless of obtaining relief. When I asked whether they had lodged complaints with the authorities, the invariable answer was a laugh or an expression of astonishment at my simplicity in asking such a question; if pressed on the point they would say, "We very seldom make a complaint now; what is the use? it costs money and does no good; even if we manage to catch a thief and take him to the konak, he is not punished."

I am sending the Kaïmakam a memorandum of the information which I have obtained by personal inquiry, in order to open his eyes, if possible, to the real state of the country.

12. An Armenian merchant has just informed me, by petition, that on the afternoon of the 3rd instant a Greek agent of his, who was conveying £T. 150 to Ismidt in a carriage, was stopped by six mounted men with masked faces and robbed of the money as well as of his revolver and other articles.

13. An Abazye Bey called on me on Sunday (11th) accompanied by a respectable Armenian, who introduced him as the "most honest Circassian hereabouts;" after a short time he spoke out quite freely, admitting that many of his own followers stole cattle, as did nearly all the new refugees, and boldly maintained that they had a perfect right to help themselves, and that, having arms in their hands, it was not likely that they would starve; of his own clan, sixty families of the old refugees were well enough off, but thirty families, who had come since the war, were in a state of misery, and that it was quite impossible to keep them from stealing. He intimated pretty plainly that, unless some proper arrangements were made, worse would follow, and, he added, "If 25,000 more refugees are sent here the place will become a hell."

On this last point I quite agree with him, as I telegraphed on the 5th instant, and I earnestly trust that the Porte may reconsider its decision in this matter; to pour fresh hordes of starving men into this miserable province is perfect madness, and must have the most serious consequences.

14. As regards food supply, the state of the town and its immediate neighbourhood is better than I had expected, and it does not appear that the scarcity which undoubtedly existed during the winter and spring ever amounted to actual famine, at least I hear of no instances of persons having died literally from starvation, although deaths from disease, brought on or intensified by want of sufficient nourishment, were not unfrequent, especially amongst the old people and children. At the worst time the price of maize and wheat was about double, and that of meat four times, the usual rate.

Now food is plentiful, and although prices are still somewhat high, they are likely to fall before long to their usual level, as the harvest of wheat is very good, and maize promises to be above the average.

These remarks apply only to the town and its immediate vicinity, as I have not yet

* Inclosure 4.

had an opportunity of ascertaining to what extent want existed, or still exists, in other parts of this caza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON-WARLOW.

Inclosure 4 in No. 57.

Statements made to me by Villagers in the immediate neighbourhood of Ada-Bazär.
(Purely Turkish Villages.)

1. THREE men living in Tashlug:—

Four or five years ago there were about 250 head of cattle in our village, now there are only about 150. Some died during last winter, others were stolen; about 20 are stolen yearly. Quite lately cattle belonging to the Mukhtar's (Headman) brother-in-law and to one "Reschid" were stolen. The nearest Circassian village is some 6 miles off. If it were near us we should have nothing left. We have long given up making complaints to the authorities, as we never got any good by so doing.

2. Oosman, Mukhtar of Budukbar:—

Five years ago we had 400 cattle in this village, now we have only half that number. Some died, but by far the greater part have been stolen.

This day week an ox of mine was carried off by Circassians as my children were driving it home in the evening. The ground being muddy, I tracked it to a Circassian village (Gebert Oomer) about 3 miles distant, and found it tied in the street, but was unable to get it back. The first time I was told that I should have it back when they had done with it; when I went again they threatened to shoot me; on going a third time I found that my ox had been slaughtered for a wedding feast at the Bey's house. I begged the Bey (Guzil Hamed) when I first went to give me back my ox, but he would not.

3. Mukhtar Yusuf of Abaln:—

There are about thirty houses in this village. No cattle have been stolen from us. Our crops are good this year.

(This man was unwilling to talk to me, and his statements were contradicted by a man from this village whom I met soon afterwards, who stated bluntly that the Mukhtar was a very great liar, that many cattle had been stolen from the village, but that none of his own having been taken, he cared nothing about it.)

4. Ismaïl of Tcherlebeler:—

There are only fourteen houses in my village, and we possess only 17 or 18 cattle. One was stolen this year. I have a horse, but am afraid to use it, as the Circassians rob horses openly. The rider is told to get off or he will be shot. People used to ride to the mosque, but now every one comes on foot. Formerly I used to take fruit to Ismidt for sale twice a-month, but gave up doing so a year ago, owing to the road becoming so dangerous from robbers; now I have no market for my fruit, and much of it rots on the trees. We never complain to the authorities now. We gave it up long ago as a bad job. Even if we caught the thieves they were let go again.

5. Mehemed Emin, of Solaclar (statement confirmed by Ali and Ahmed, of same village):—

I am a farmer, and was formerly a timber merchant as well, and used to cut down trees in the Government forests, cart the planks to Ismidt, and sell them there for shipbuilding to Government. Some eight years ago I had 300 oxen and cows and 25 carts; now I have only two oxen left. About 100 of my cattle were stolen, and I had to sell the rest for what I could get. During the last four years things have been very bad indeed. In March last I had a pair of oxen stolen which I would gladly have given 40 liras to recover.

There are only thirty-five houses in our village. Two years ago we owned between us about 750 cattle; we have now only about 60. Of the others, perhaps 100 died from disease, about 200 were sold at a loss, all the rest were stolen.

We now make no complaints to the authorities as a rule, but I reported the theft of my fine pair of oxen in March.

6. Mustapha, of Belyilar:—

There are thirty-five houses in my village. During last five or six years four-fifths of our cattle have been stolen. We have now only about 30 left. Of my own cattle, 4 have been stolen in as many years.

July 9, 1880.

7. Kamush Village: Mushtar, Arcef Agha:—

There are thirty houses in my village. Four or five years ago we owned 160 or 170 cattle of different sorts, now we have only 50. Very few have died, all the rest have been stolen. A cow was stolen from Ismail three days ago. About three months ago we caught a thief and took him to the konak; he was sentenced to pay a fine of 15 liras, but was let out after twelve days without paying anything. The fine might easily have been enforced, as he had plenty of cattle. There are two villages of old Circassians (Kambulat and Bezurrue Beys), and one of new Circassians (Reschid Bey) within a mile or so; they all steal alike, but the new comers cannot help doing so, as they have no means of livelihood. We employ a few of them as shepherds; it is our only chance of saving our flocks. Now we are in difficulties about our harvest, for if after cutting it we leave it on the ground, it is carried off at night by the Circassians, while if we remove it near to our houses, we are fined by the tax-gatherers.

8. Kayrlur Village: Ayesha (widow):—

There were fifty families in our village fifteen or sixteen years ago, now there are fifteen; all the others have died out or left the place. Once we owned, in the village, 150 oxen and 60 or 70 cows, now we have only 9 cows left; nearly all have been stolen. My husband died three years ago. About six weeks before his death he was robbed of 50 liras and severely beaten by Circassians. Once I was quite rich, I had the best house in the place, nine "dunums" of land, a horse and cattle; now I am in rags. Kambulat Bey, whose village is close by, wanted to have my land, and because I would not give it to him he is always persecuting me. My house has been broken into frequently and all my property taken away.

9. Ismail:—

My father (now dead) once owned 30 oxen, of which 7 were stolen, a few died, and the rest were sold off for what we could get.

10. Halil:—

Four days ago I was stopped on the road about 1½ miles from here and robbed of my clothes and all that I had on me.

July 10, 1880.

Inclosure 5 in No. 57.

Major Picton-Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 10.) *Ada-Bazar, July* 30, 1880.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 8 of the 13th July, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I remained at Ada-Bazar until the 19th instant, during which time many Turkish villagers, having heard of my arrival, came in on foot from places 15 or 20 miles off, to tell me of their troubles; all repeated the old story of robberies and cattle thefts, all complained bitterly of the impossibility of obtaining justice from the authorities, and the uselessness of appealing to them for protection or redress. I have noted down each case as reported to me, but have not visited any more villages in the immediate vicinity, having already seen quite enough to make me acquainted with the real state of the country, and having heard that the Kaïmakam and other officials, being much annoyed at the steps which I have taken to ascertain the truth, have threatened to punish any one who may give me information in future.

2. Having heard in the course of conversation that the people of Fundukiu, a large village about 12 miles north of Ada-Bazar, had suffered greatly from want of food during last winter, and had also been nearly ruined by their Circassian neighbours, I went out there for a day and made inquiries, the result of which is as follows:—

The 300 families, all Greek, who inhabit Fundukiu once formed a remarkably prosperous, well-to-do community, breeding horses, for which there was a great demand, and supplying large quantities of grain, fruit, vegetables, and dairy produce to Ada-Bazar and Ismidt. They owned about 800 acres of land near their village, and about the same quantity in a very fertile plain on the left bank of the Sangarius, some 8 or 10 miles off, where they had temporary houses, in which they lived during a great part of the summer. Everything went well with them until eight years ago, when the Turkish Government thought fit to locate a small colony of Abazye refugees on the hills which border the Sangarius Valley; some waste land on the hill-side was allotted to them, but as they were not supplied with cattle or agricultural implements, they could not have cultivated it, even if they had been inclined for hard work. Being thus left to shift for

themselves, and having arms in their hands, it was hardly likely that they would starve in the midst of plenty, and they began at once to help themselves to the flocks and herds of their rich neighbours and to reap their crops; being joined by fresh parties of their countrymen, they rapidly increased in numbers and rapacity. Not content with cattle-lifting, they gradually ousted the Greeks from the whole of their river-side land by the simple process of seizing their horses and oxen and beating them severely whenever they came to plough or reap their fields. In the course of eight years the unfortunate people of Fundukiu have been plundered to such an extent that of their 500 or 600 horses scarcely half-a-dozen remain, while their oxen have been reduced from 800 to 240, their cows from 1,000 to 250, and their sheep and goats from 10,000 to 6,000; these figures were given by the villagers themselves, and may of course be exaggerated, as I had no means of checking them, but there can be no doubt as to the main fact, that the people have been reduced from comparative wealth to the most abject poverty. Men who were rich are now literally beggars, and the whole village, which contains a large, well-built stone church and a good school-house, shows unmistakable signs of the change which has come over it. Before leaving, I had a good opportunity of hearing all that could be said on the other side, as one of the principal Beys from the Circassian village, having probably heard of my arrival, came in, and I had a long conversation with him. He tried, of course, to put things in the most favourable light for his countrymen, but could not deny that the greater part of the river land had passed into the hands of the Circassians without purchase, and could account for it only by declaring that the Greeks, through sheer perverseness, had allowed it to fall out of cultivation, and that the Circassians had therefore made use of it. As to the question of ownership no doubt can exist, as the Greeks hold the title deeds, and are compelled by Government to pay taxes on the land which has virtually passed out of their possession; they have sent in endless petitions on the subject, but can obtain no redress or even remission of the taxes.

I may mention that, only the day before my arrival, three Circassians had driven off sixty sheep, out of a flock of several hundred, at no great distance from Fundukiu, and had severely beaten one of the two shepherds who attempted resistance. I saw the wounded man, and heard the story from his own lips.

With reference to the distress during the winter and early spring, I learnt that here, as at Ada-Bazar, there was great scarcity, which, however, did not amount to famine, no one having actually died from starvation.

3. On the afternoon of the 19th I left Ada-Bazar for Dusdschich, making short marches in order that I might have time to stop at the principal places and learn what was going on. At Ak Yazir, a Turkish village containing 120 houses, where I passed the night, there had been five or six housebreakings during the last twelve months, one in the house of the richest merchant in the place, from which T. £ 500 had been carried off. The leader of the gang who committed these crimes was a Turkish deserter, his followers being Circassians. They were arrested, but very soon afterwards were all released, with the exception of the Turk, who was handed over to the military authorities. Cattle thefts were very numerous, how many I could not ascertain. "We have left off counting them," was the answer I got. The Government officials here, Mudir and Hakim, were as loud in their complaints as any of the villagers.

4. At a village which I passed through on the next day I found that only a few days before a villager, who had tried to prevent some Circassians from driving off his horses, had been shot with a revolver and dangerously wounded. At Handak, where I next stopped, the Mudir told me that in his range there were only 800 houses of Turks, and no less than 2,500 houses of Abazyes. Of these latter, about 1,200 people (men, women, and children) were new refugees, the great majority of whom were miserably off and had been nearly starved during the winter, having had nothing to live on except 1 piastre a-day given by Government. The Mudir has only three zaptiehs at his disposal, and can do nothing towards checking crime. Here, as elsewhere, thefts are numerous. "All the Abazyes steal more or less; some from necessity, others from choice." This, no doubt, was a *façon de parler*, but that a very great number steal habitually, in order to keep body and soul together, is a fact which there is no denying.

5. During my next day's ride I passed through several Circassian villages, round which the forest had been cleared and capital crops were growing, the best which I have seen in this part of the country.

6. I reached Dusdschich early on Thursday (22nd), and was at once visited by the Kaïmakam, who told me that in his division, the total population of which is only some 35,000 or 36,000, there are about 20,000 pure Circassians and 5,000 Abazyes, nearly half

of the former being refugees from Roumelia, and all of the latter new arrivals who had to be provided for somehow. He was dividing them amongst the different villages, but it does not appear that most of them have any means of earning a living. As might naturally be expected, the influx of so great a number of, mostly penniless, men into a small district has caused great confusion. The state of things here is quite as bad as in the neighbourhood of Ada-Bazar; the people are more outspoken, and, as soon as my arrival was known, deputations came in from nearly all the adjoining villages, as well as from some at a considerable distance off, and offered, if I was not satisfied with their statements, to bring the people *en masse* to bear witness to their truth. All these were Turks, as, with the exception of a few shopkeepers in the town, there are no Armenians in this Kaïmakamlik.

7. I must not trouble your Excellency with details, but, in order to show how great and general is the insecurity of property, especially cattle, I may mention that, out of thirty men who happened to be in my room at one time, there were only three who had not lost some of their live stock, during the last four years the total amount stolen from them being 38 cows, 14 calves, 30 oxen, and 6 horses. As they were all small peasant proprietors, owning from 1 to 10 acres of land, the above figures represent one-half or one-third at least of their entire live stock.

On the two following days I noted down the exact amount of land, present live stock, and amount lost by each man who visited me, and attach, in Appendix (A), a statement from which your Excellency will see that the average amount of each man's holding was only 3 acres, his live stock a yoke of oxen and a couple of cows, and that, during the last four years, he has lost two-thirds as much as he now possesses. I have put down in Appendix (A) the first forty men as they come on my list, so they are perfectly fair specimens of the rest. All the men who visited me, including Hojas (Priests) and Mukhtars (Headmen), assured me that the general mass of the people were every bit as badly off as those whose losses I inquired about.

I need hardly remark how heavily such losses as these fall on men who have, in most cases, no capital to replace the stolen cattle, and are obliged to allow part of their small patches of land to fall out of cultivation, and how ruinous to the country in general is the state of lawlessness which now prevails, and which the local authorities are quite unable to deal with.

8. While at Dusdscheh I saw a good many of the Circassian Boys in the neighbourhood, and spoke to them on the state of the country. While admitting that many of their people were habitual thieves and robbers, they complained that the Turkish authorities did not attempt to check crime, and one of the Boys declared that they encouraged it, and shared the proceeds; they also complained, what is doubtless true, that everything is now put down to Circassians, whereas some of the thefts are committed by Turkish professionals. All declared their readiness to assist in restoring order, if Government really set to work in earnest. These particular Boys were, I believe, of good character, and may have meant what they said, but there are other influential Circassians, well known to the authorities, who, unless report wrongs them greatly, are themselves no better than professional robbers.

9. The entire police force in this Kaïmakamlik, which now contains at least 12,000 new refugees, consists of one officer and twelve zaptiehs, of whom only four are available at head-quarters, and are, of course, simply useless except to carry letters, which is the only duty they do or can perform.

10. During the whole of my inquiries I was unable to find a single case in which property once lost had been recovered or the guilty persons brought to justice. Under these circumstances, it is no wonder that the sufferers make no complaints to the authorities, and that their records should show comparatively little crime; the fee of 2 medjidiés, required before a petition can be filed or in any way attended to, is of itself sufficient to deter a poor man who seldom has such a sum in his possession from coming to the Court; even one tolerably well off does not choose to throw good money after bad.

11. During my stay at Dusdscheh (from 22nd to 27th instant) I did my best to obtain the release of the woman who was kidnapped from Brusa with her two female children in October last (*vide* despatches marginally noted),* but could not succeed, although she was in a village only 4 or 5 miles from Dusdscheh in the house of the two men who carried her off, Jamholit and Mahmoud, who, by the way, are not Boys at all, but ordinary Circassian villagers possessing no influence, and apparently not wealthy.

On my arrival I found that the Kaïmakam had, by his own admission, taken little

* Acting Vice-Consul Gilbertson, No. 5, dated Brusa, November 21, 1879; my despatch No. 6, dated Ineboli, June 23, 1880, paragraphs 3 to 7.

or no notice of the first order he received on the subject, and only began to exert himself after receipt of the telegrams sent by the Vali when I was at Kastamuni six weeks ago; since then he assures me that he had been trying all he could to recover the woman and her children, and arrest the offenders, but I very much doubt the truth of his statement, as on my arrival the two men were living quietly in their village, where one of them was seen by a zaptieh who had been sent to apprehend him, but was, he stated, afraid to do so. After this the men are supposed to have made off, but I believe that they might very easily have been found.

When I went to their village the principal men told me that they could have caught and handed them both over to the Kaïmakam, had he ordered them to do so, while that official declares that he frequently gave such orders, but without effect. I hear, and believe, that until quite lately both the offenders were in the habit of going constantly to Dusdscheh, and were never interfered with by the police. I also hear that some time ago they were actually put into gaol at the konak and afterwards released. How far this statement may be true I cannot pretend to say.

One thing is perfectly clear, viz., that the Kaïmakam, either through fear of the Circassians or from some other motive, has not carried out the orders which he received, and I do not in the least expect that the woman and her children will be recovered or the kidnappers punished.

12. I left Dusdscheh on the 27th instant, and arrived at Ada-Bazar the next day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PIOTON-WARLOW.

Appendix (A).

STATEMENT of Cattle stolen during the last four years from Villages near Dusdscheh, Kastamuni Vilayet.

No.	Land Owned.	Live Stock at present.			Stolen during Four Years.		
		Oxen.	Cows and Buffaloes.	Horses.	Oxen.	Cows and Buffaloes.	Horses.
	Acres.						
1	1¾	2	1	..	1	1	..
2	1½	2	..	..	1	..	..
3	2	1	..	..	1	12	..
4	4	2	..	..	1	1	..
5	2	2	..	..	1	4	..
6	4½	4	4	1	1	2	..
7	1¼	2	..	..	2	..	..
8	2	2	1	..	..	1	1
9	5	4	3	1	1	4	..
10	3	3	3	..	..	1	..
11	1	1	1	..	..	2	..
12	1¼	1	..	..	..	1	..
13	2	2	2	..	1	2	..
14	1¾	2	..	..	2	4	..
15	1	1	..	..	1	2	..
16	½	10	3	..	1	..	..
17	1¼	1	2	..	2	..	..
18	6	3	3	..	..	3	..
19	2	3	..	..	..	2	..
20	3	1	2	..	1	2	..
21	3	1	2	..	1	..	..
22	1½	1	2	..	1	2	..
23	2	2	..	..	1	4	..
24	1	1	3	..	1	1	..
25	4	4	3	..	..	..	..
26	4	3	1	..	1	..	..
27	3	3	1	..	1	1	..
28	2	4	2	..	1	..	..
29	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
30	1	2	2	..	..	1	..
31	1	4	2	..	..	1	1
32	¾	1	2	..	..	1	..
33	1¼	1	..	..	1	..	..
34	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
35	1¼	..	4	..	1	3	..
36	2½	1	1	..	1	2	..
37	1	..	1	..	1	1	..
38	1	2	2	..	3	3	2
39	4	..	..	..	2	1	2
40	1	..	..	..			
	81¾	81	73	2	37	65	6

Inclosure 6 in No. 57.

Major Picton-Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

Adu-Bazar, July 30, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNTRY about Dusdscheh in great disorder. A large number of robberies and cattle thefts. Authorities helpless. They cannot arrest Circassian kidnapper of the Brusa woman residing near town.

No. 58.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 254.)

Therapia, August 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I SPOKE to his Highness Kadri Pasha a few days ago with regard to the various pending questions relating to the Arab tribes both in the Persian Gulf and in the Bagdad Vilayet. I pointed out to him that these tribes appeared to be getting out of hand, from the Guttur coast almost to Bagdad. I mentioned the disorders at Bussorah, the attack on the steamer of Messrs. Lynch, the journey of Abdul Rahman

Pasha to Nasanyah, in the Montefflc country, and other incidents which have been reported in Colonel Miles' despatches.

I spoke to his Highness on the matter, because he has himself been in those regions, and is more acquainted with them than the Minister for Foreign Affairs. With regard to the Persian Gulf, and the desire of Her Majesty's Government to deal more effectually with piracy, by acquiring the right to pursue pirate craft within the limits of Turkish waters, in such parts where the Turkish authority is not sufficiently established for the Turks to be able to act themselves, I pointed out to his Highness that the question had been mooted many months ago, that I could get no answer from the Porte, that the matter could not be allowed to drift indefinitely, as the prevalence of piracy in the Persian Gulf was inflicting constant injury on general commerce, and that our men-of-war would be obliged to act in a somewhat high-handed manner if the Porte delayed coming to some arrangement.

His Highness admitted the existence of the evil, but was not very precise in his promises to take any action. I shall continue to press the question, but if I am unable to obtain any satisfactory offer of an arrangement, I would suggest that the Commander of Her Majesty's ships of war in the Persian Gulf should be instructed not to allow themselves to be too much hampered by the three-mile limit in pursuing and capturing pirates, especially as the Turkish authority on the coast is at so many points of a very shadowy description.

With regard to the Arab tribes in the Bagdad Vilayet, the Prime Minister was not in possession of much information as to what is now going on, and I was able to inform him of movements of the Governor with which, as I understood, he was not acquainted.

I have received a despatch from Colonel Miles this morning, covering one from Mr. Bowman, explaining the nature of the disorders at Bussorah; but when I saw Kadri Pasha I was only in possession of a telegram, stating generally that there was great insecurity of life and property in that district. His Highness promised to make inquiries. He knew nothing of any disorders. I shall now send him a copy of Mr. Bowman's despatch, of which copy is inclosed. I pressed his Highness generally on the relations of the Arab tribes to the Porte. He would not admit that there was cause for alarm, but he admitted frankly that the great withdrawal of troops from those regions during the war had weakened the hands and lowered the prestige of the central authority, and that it was difficult to re-establish it.

Meanwhile, I call your Lordship's attention to the curious fact, that the attack of the Arabs on the steamer belonging to the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company is ascribed by the Vali of the vilayet to the desire of the Arabs to call attention to their grievances by an act which would arouse more public attention than an attack upon Turkish ships or Turkish authorities, while a precisely similar account was given of the motives which induced Ferhan Pasha to attack the camels of Messrs. Lynch carrying grain.

Many incidents appear to me to confirm the impression which these despatches of Colonel Miles create, that the Arabs are giving unusual trouble, and that a watchful eye must be kept on events in those quarters: I have discussed the matter at length with Mr. Plowden, who leaves Constantinople this morning *en route* for Bagdad, where he hopes to enter on his duties as Consul-General on the 21st September.

I have ascertained that the 21,000 rifles sent to Bagdad, as reported by Acting Consul Bowman to Colonel Miles in his despatch of the 23rd June, of which a copy is inclosed, were taken from the Government stores here. Their dispatch is somewhat strange. It would seem to indicate either that the Turks know more about the insecure state of the country, as regards the Arabs, than Kadri Pasha would admit, and are taking measures accordingly; but then the question arises, "Have they troops enough to require so large a number of rifles? or that the rifles are to be sent further north than Bagdad?" I am not as yet disposed to give much credence to the alleged formation of a Kurdish League, under the protection of the Central Government; but people are not wanting who would readily believe that the destination of the rifles in question is to arm a number of Kurds if events should render it desirable to bring a large body together.

A communication which I have received on the subject of this League from the Armenian Patriarch is inclosed herewith, for your Lordship's information, in original.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Mr. Bowman to Consul-General Miles.

Basreh, July 15, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Postmaster's house, within a few yards of this Consulate, was robbed of everything it contained on the night of the 7th July. The Postmaster and his family were sleeping on the roof of the room from which the property was stolen, the thieves having got inside by digging through the mud wall of the house. I have represented the case to the Governor of Basreh, but the thieves have not been arrested.

I regret to say that the authorities here seem incapable of securing any safety to property or life, and unless stringent measures be adopted to put an end to the existing state of affairs a serious catastrophe may result. During the past week nine persons were murdered in or near to Basreh, and at night the town appears to be in the possession of armed bands of robbers; under these circumstances, I have issued a Circular to masters of British vessels, informing them it is not advisable to permit boats remaining or coming alongside their vessels between sunset and sunrise.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. BOWMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Mr. Bowman to Consul-General Miles.

Basreh, June 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that 21,000 Henry-Martini rifles, with ammunition, have been lately landed here (during the time I was at Bagdad) for the Turkish Government, from the steam-ship "Galatea;" these rifles were shipped at Constantinople, and, with the exception of 200, have been forwarded to Bagdad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. BOWMAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 58.

Letter from M. Krimian.

Van, le 20 *Juin*, 1880 (v.s.).

IL n'y a plus de doute. Une ligue Kurde est en train de se former à l'instigation du Gouvernement Central, qui veut paralyser la question Arménienne, en lui en opposant une nouvelle, celle des Kurdes.

L'âme de cette ligue est la politique Ottomane. Le Cheikh Ebédullah en est le centre factice; Bahri Bey, fils de Béderhan Bey, en est l'émissaire assidu.

On remue. Bahri Bey se rendant auprès des Chefs Kurdes, emploie tantôt les promesses, tantôt les instances et tantôt les menaces, pour les réunir tous autour d'un même Chef, le Cheikh Ebédullah.

La ligne Kurde, pour se faire un foyer en Turquie, déploie l'activité la plus brutale, pour faire évacuer par les Arméniens l'arrondissement d'Aghpag (Hekkiari). A cet effet, elle se permet tout excès qu'il serait inutile de qualifier.

Voilà comment certaines personnes dignes de foi écrivent à ce sujet d'Aghpag:—

"Quand Bahri Bey vint à Aghpag chargé de porter au Cheikh Ebédullah les insignes de la décoration que le Gouvernement Ottoman lui avait décernée, il tenait ce langage: 'J'inviterai le Cheikh à se rendre à Constantinople; s'il me résiste, à mon retour je marcherai sur lui avec les troupes Impériales.'

"Malgré ces paroles, Bahri Bey, aussitôt arrivé auprès du Cheikh, ne fit qu'attirer vers celui-ci les Chefs Kurdes, non-seulement de l'Arménie, mais encore ceux de la Perse.

"Mémé, fils d'Anli Khan, accompagné de ses hommes, se lia par serment au Cheikh, et en revint avec des cadeaux. Certains autres Chefs, récalcitrants tout d'abord, finirent par s'allier au Cheikh.

"Cependant les Chefs Abdul Rahman Djilmaghir, Kirouate Aly Mehmet, malgré

toutes les instances de Bahri Bey, méconnaissent pour le moment la ligue, quoiqu'il soit de toute probabilité qu'ils finiront par y entrer.

"Bahri Bey a invité aussi les Chefs des tribus Milan, Alean, Dudorri, de la Perse, à venir faire leur soumission au Cheikh.

"Cette ligue possède aujourd'hui 4,000 fusils Martini dont les 200 sont de provenance Persane et le restant de provenance Turque.

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman, pour rehausser le prestige du nom Kurde en Europe, fait des efforts inouïs afin de provoquer des mouvements insurrectionnels simultanés en Turquie comme en Perse, où les ligueurs veulent se créer un second centre d'opération et de domination, entre Asma et Salmast.

"Le Mutessarif d'Aghpag (Hekkiari), effrayé par ce mouvement dont le mobile ne lui est peut-être pas encore communiqué par le Gouvernement, veut donner sa démission.

"Bahri Bey veut, sous divers prétextes, se rendre à Van pour faire participer les Kurdes de cette province au mouvement général. Soyez sur vos gardes; car cette ligue a des ramifications partout.

Et en vérité, certains Chefs Turcs de Van sont de l'idée de livrer la ville même à la domination du Cheikh. Cependant nous ne croyons pas que les Kurdes puissent pousser l'audace jusqu'à ce point.

Quelque insignifiante que soit l'importance politique de cette ligue, elle pourrait avoir cependant de sinistres résultats en surprenant la population Arménienne dont aujourd'hui plus que les biens—la vie est menacée.

Le Commandant du corps de l'armée dirige toutes ces opérations de connivence avec le Gouverneur de Van. La destitution de ces deux hauts fonctionnaires serait, suivant nous, le meilleur moyen des machinations qui ne sont malheureusement que trop avancées.

Du reste, la décision suprême du Traité de Berlin une fois exécutée, les Kurdes qui sont plus fins que les Turcs, par la versatilité qui est propre à leur caractère, ne pourraient faire mieux que de s'allier aux Arméniens.

No. 59.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 250.)

Therapia, August 10, 1880.

My Lord,

ON the 3rd July I addressed your Lordship on the subject of the mission of Ahmed Ghalib Bey, a Circassian Chief, to the Sandjak of Ismidt to undertake the settlement of the Circassian refugees in that district.

A few days ago this Chief paid me a second visit, and informed me that he had returned to Constantinople because the supply of funds necessary to him to feed the Circassians had been suddenly stopped. He had wished to plead personally with the Turkish authorities to be furnished with money as before, and to represent to them the absolute necessity for immediate action. He repeated his statement that the number of refugees in Ismidt and the district which he had been sent to deal with amounted to 5,000 families, and he informed me that he had left them the means of subsistence for fifteen days, but that half of the time had already elapsed. He had apparently found no alacrity on the part of the Porte to help him, nor have I been able to ascertain what steps have been taken.

I inclose a despatch from Major Warlow on the subject of these refugees. The crime and disorders to which the state in which they are left by the Porte must lead are fearful to contemplate. I shall do my utmost to bring the Porte to a sense of the immense responsibility they are incurring, but I have little hope that any effectual steps will be taken.

Meanwhile, I was informed that there was a brisk demand for the daughters of the starving refugees, and that the agents of influential Pashas were taking advantage of their state to obtain a plentiful supply. On my stating to the Circassian Chief that I should bring this circumstance to the notice of the Sultan himself, he laughed and said that two black men from the Palace were themselves engaged in looking out for girls.

I shall not fail to inform your Lordship what is the final result of Ahmed Ghalib Bey's application for the necessary funds to keep this large number of starving Circassians alive.

I shall discuss the recommendation contained in Major Warlow's despatch with him

and with Colonel Wilson, but it is very doubtful whether the Porte will consent to carry them out. It is a hard duty for our agents to be obliged to witness and report on such a state of things, and at the same time to feel powerless to apply any remedy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Major Picton-Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 11.)
Brussa, August 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I left Ada-Bazar on the 31st ultimo, and reached Brussa on the 4th instant, travelling by Gewek and Isnik. In the districts through which I passed there was, so far as I could ascertain, no extraordinary amount of crime, and the people had no special grievances to complain of, which may be accounted for by the fact of there being scarcely any Circassians settled among them.

2. The condition of the Kaïmakamliks of Ada-Bazar and Kangra, in the Ismidt Sandjak, and of Dusdschch in the Kastamuni Vilayet, has been reported in my two last despatches, but I fear that I may have failed to convey an adequate idea of all that I saw and heard; that I should have over-estimated the extent of the evil is hardly likely, as, having for many years been in police charge of crime-ridden districts in India, I have been familiar with robberies of a more cruel and violent type than any I have as yet heard of in this country, and am well aware of the difficulty of putting a stop to them. Experience has shown me that cattle-stealing on a large scale, and even organized brigandage, may be carried on in a tolerably well-governed country, but I find here a state of things entirely new and strange to me, which can be described only as simple anarchy. So far as the protection of life and property is concerned, government has, virtually, ceased to exist. Lawlessness is the only law. The Circassians, strong in numbers and well armed, do that which is right in their own eyes, and there is no one to hinder them; being so entirely masters of the situation, they really deserve some credit for their moderation. I have never heard them charged, even by those who most detest and revile them, with violence to women, and they are averse to unnecessary bloodshed, although never hesitating to use their arms when resistance is attempted by those whom they are plundering. A great number of the new arrivals have to choose between living by crime and not living at all, while many others, who have now become habitual thieves, were at first in the same condition.

Miserable as is the state of these Kaïmakamliks at present, it is likely to become infinitely worse, as, even now, the Government are sending over thousands of Lazes for whom no adequate provision can be made, and of whom a very large proportion will have to live as best they can, *i.e.*, by plundering the Turkish peasant farmers, who are already on the verge of ruin.

3. Having now, to the best of my ability, made your Excellency acquainted with the existing state of things in the districts above mentioned, I would venture to offer a few suggestions as to the steps which should be taken to save them from utter ruin:—

(1.) An immediate and final stop should be put to the importation of refugees of any sort or description.

(2.) All refugees, whether long since settled down or newly arrived, should be given the option of returning to their own country. Such as wish to do so should be provided with a free passage, and assisted in every possible way by buying their land, houses, and live stock at a fair valuation.

(3.) A careful survey should be made of the Government land, which should be divided off into allotments, sufficient to maintain a man and his family, and distributed among such of the poor refugees as elect to remain in Turkey, together with cattle, agricultural implements, and food for one year.

(4.) Should the land available prove insufficient, as would probably be the case, the surplus refugees, for whom provision could not be made, should have the option of returning to their own country, or being drafted off to other parts of the Empire, and should be compelled to accept one or other of these alternatives.

(5.) Every refugee having been given the means of earning his livelihood, the law should be strictly enforced, and crime of all kinds be put down with a strong hand.

4. I have reason to believe that there would be little difficulty in carrying out some

such arrangement, so far as the refugees are concerned, for all the Beys whom I happened to meet, whether belonging to the old settlers or to the new arrivals, expressed bitter regret at having ever left their own country, and an earnest wish to return.

5. An efficient police force here, as in other parts of Turkey, is, of course, a *sine qua non*, but its introduction at present would do very little good. Starving men cannot be restrained from crime, and any attempt to reduce the Circassians to order before treating them with justice and liberality might lead to very serious consequences.

6. I have not touched on the question of a general disarming of the Circassians, as it is one which requires great consideration, and on which I am not at present prepared to offer an opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON-WARLOW.

No. 60.

Consul Billiotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 23. Political.)
Trebizond, August 1, 1880.

My Lord,

AS I stated in my preceding despatch, before going to Hapsamané, I visited the districts lying between it and the sea-shore.

Having departed from Ordoo on the 22nd ultimo, I followed a south-westerly direction for about 15 miles, then, by a very circuitous route, I pushed to the east-south-east nearly as far as the eastern sea-shore limit of the district of Ordoo, and from thence proceeded to Hapsamané, which lies at about 35 miles south-south-west of the town, and which I reached on the night of the 27th ultimo. I returned to the sea-shore by Banlaman, the western canton of the district of Ordoo, and reached Fatza last night.

With the exception of two rainy days, on which I was compelled to halt, I travelled over a very hilly and difficult country, at the rate of from 20 to 25 miles a-day.

I thus visited all the villages from which Christians have emigrated, or had made preparations for emigrating to Russia, and many of those whose inhabitants had similar intentions, besides speaking with peasants from other villages out of my way, who came to meet me at the places where I stopped.

The following is the result of the information which I have collected:—

Number of families that departed:—

	No.
From Tenieli, out of 9 families	1
,, Bulbuldéré, out of 15 families	1
,, Turuntsof, the whole families	6
,, Tépékeui, out of 48 families	38
,, Ordoo, immediate vicinity of town, Gümshané families lately settled there	8
Total (all Greek)	54

Number of families that actually proceeded to the sea-shore for embarkation, and were induced to return to their villages under the promise of grant of lands:—

	No.
From Tenieli, out of 11 families	8
,, Alandjik, ,, 35 ,, ...	4
,, Kayadibi, ,, 20 ,, ...	2
,, Karadéré, the whole families	10
,, Fundukli, out of 18 families	4
,, Perchembé	4
,, Tépékeui, the remaining	16
Total	48

(Of whom 2 Mussulman, 22 Greek, and 24 Armenian.)

Only part of the property of which they had disposed were returned to them, and, owing to loss of time, they were unable to sow more than half their fields.

Besides the foregoing, upwards of 100 Greek, 30 Armenian, as well as some Mussulman heads of family from different villages, especially from the Canton of Tahiuli, south-east of the district of Ordoo, went to the sea-shore to make arrangements for departing with their families, but returned to their respective villages on seeing that those that were already there were sent back to their places of residence by the local authorities.

The number of those who intended to emigrate, and have not yet given up the idea, is the whole of the Christian rural population, whether Greek or Armenian, and more than 100 Mussulman families; the latter especially from the villages of Dereli, Yaghmon, Saghilli, Kara Kirez, Tormon, Kirji Kolun, and Fundukli.

If a portion of these intended emigrants speak of emigration as a threat, the greater part seem to be really decided, especially the Greeks, to leave the country if no remedy is found for their present condition; and should a few families depart from any part of the district, the example will soon be followed by many, if not all the others.

This is not the first time that emigration takes place from the district of Ordoo. A number of families have departed, from time to time, for other parts of Turkey, or for Russia, but there has never been, as there now is, an inclination to emigrate *en masse* for Russia.

Before proceeding further, I consider necessary, for the full comprehension of the present Report, to enter into some details on the physical, political, and social condition of Ordoo.

The whole district is a succession of hills, sometimes attaining the size of mountains, and of deep and abrupt ravines. There is a very little extent of level ground, and most of it is in close proximity to the sea-shore.

Judging from the number of trees which still stand on the spots not adapted for agriculture, and the forests which cover the higher peaks, the country must have been most luxuriantly wooded. In going from Hapsamané to Boulaman, I rode during three hours through a most beautiful forest of oak-trees, which, together with elm and birch, are the trees principally found in this region. This forest has been assigned as place of residence for 300 Laz families that have not yet made their appearance.

Azaleas are the only shrubs growing on the top of hills and on mountains, and ferns on the sides of the hills and plains. But it would seem that the soil on which the latter grow is not adapted for sowing wheat. Indian corn, which is the principal produce of the country, and, so to say, the only food of the inhabitants, succeeds well.

The land is well watered, and inferring, from the produce of the level land, which yields 30, and sometimes 40 to 1, must have been exceedingly fertile. But, owing to the abrupt declivity of the sides of the hills, the rich soil has been gradually washed away, and in many places the produce does not now exceed 5 to 1. The average is 10 to 1.

The land was divided into large estates, held by Beys or Aghas, and smaller freeholds, the property of the remainder of the population, which was exclusively Mussulman. About 150 years since, the first Christian immigrants, a few Armenian families from Hamseen, one of the eastern districts of Trebizond, landed at Ordoo, and, little by little, pushed towards the south. At about the same period another limited number of Greek Christians, together with Mussulmans, came from the inland districts of Gumushané and Geurtin, and by degrees extended towards the sea-shore. The Armenians seem to have left Hamseen to avoid forced conversions to Islamism, and the Greeks to have departed from Gumushané owing to the suspension of the working of the mines in that locality.

All these new settlers easily obtained life tenantries on the extensive estates of the Beys and Agas, a very small portion of which was only cultivated at the time. They became the serfs of the lords on whose estates they settled, and, with the exception of so insignificant a minority that it is hardly worth while mentioning it, have, ever since, lived in servitude. However, they are allowed to retain the produce of the lands which they cultivate, against a fixed tribute in kind and in money, varying from 1 to 2 bushels per deumum (1,150 square yards), and from 20 to 40 piastres for the tax of the plot of land, a tribute, indeed, which cannot be considered crushing.

Gradually their number augmented by the natural increase in the families, and the arrival of new settlers, and to-day the district of Ordoo, which contains six cantons, is inhabited as shown hereafter in detail.

	Greek.	Armenian.	Mussulman.	Totals.
Ordoo Proper	2,626	1,993	9,111	13,728
Perchembé	214	261	6,596	7,071
Hapsamané	926	27	4,783	5,736
Oloobek	218	875	3,926	5,019
Bolaman	327	176	4,165	4,668
Ibosa	658	..	4,377	5,035
Totals	4,969	3,230	32,958	41,257

N.B.—The number of Noufous, or males, is only given here.

Of the above about five-sixths of the Mussulmans are landowners, the remainder of them, as well as the Christians, are life tenants. However, they are free to leave the estate on which they reside, as is the lord at liberty to evict them.

The tenants, who are called kentébés, possess nothing but the miserable cabins in which they live, and which are hardly fit for animals. I know it by sad experience, having been compelled to take shelter in them at night, and on rainy days. They consist of logs put together, and leaving between them wide openings, which they do not even take the care to fill up with mortar. The floor is the earth; there is no chimney; fire is lit in the middle of the room, and an opening in the roof allows to escape the smoke when the cabin is so full of it as to nearly choke its inmates. Rain comes in through the roof and the sides. Literally I could not find one dry spot to stand on. The roof is covered with splinters of timber, which are kept down by large stones. I do not really understand how they can stand the severe winter of this region in dwellings of this description.

This is the only real estate which they possess in this world, and yet its ownership is even contested to them by the Beys and Agas. A tenant who lately departed from Ordoo sold his cabin to another, but the Aga refused to acknowledge the sale on the ground that it belonged to him, and he set fire to it and burnt it to the ground. He is now in prison for this action, but the chances are that he will soon recover his liberty without indemnifying the aggrieved party.

Tenants are bound to till and sow the lands, to gather and thrash the crops which the Beys and Agas grow on their own account. The information given to me on the subject was very conflicting, but I came to the conclusion that this work does not keep most tenants employed more than a week a-year. However, it is just at the time when they should attend to their own agricultural pursuits, which they are thus compelled to neglect, to their great detriment. They have besides to render other services, such as providing fuel, going on errands to great distances, conveying the Beys and families on the high plateaux, where they spend the summer, &c. Those of the tenants who have no beasts of burden are compelled to carry, during many hours, on their back the furniture or provisions of the Bey. These additional services take up another week in the year. But there are tenants living in the vicinity of the dwelling of the lord, or who have more aptitude for certain works, whose time is taken up from two to three months a-year. They not only make them work as well on Sundays, but use against them abusive language and brutal treatment. It is usual when a Bey apprehends that the tenant whose services he requires may not be punctual next day to lock him up for the night in one of the premises of the Bey, sometimes a stable.

I have seen a Greek from Caradéré who bore on the left shoulder the deep scar of a cutlass wound, inflicted on him by the Aga for not having readily answered his call.

Beating is of frequent occurrence, and there is at this moment in prison at Ordoo an Aga, Bayazid Oglou Ahmed, who caused the death of a Greek, not one of his tenants, named Elia, of the village of Aghkerich, by brutally thrashing him on his refusal to lend him his horse.

In the Canton of Hapsamané girls marrying tenants living on the estate of another Bey are not allowed to do so before paying a fee to their lord.

There are many other acts of oppression and vexation of minor importance, but which, added together, greatly aggravate the unenviable position of tenants.

I must state, however, that all Beys do not treat their tenants with the same harshness. Hapsamané and the eastern part of the district of Ordoo proper seem to be worse than other places in this respect. At Oloobek I was told that a Bey in that canton who did not exact compulsory labour from his tenant was willingly assisted in his agricultural pursuits not only by tenants, but by landowners themselves. In general tenants do not seem to object so much to work as to the manner in which it is exacted from them.

Mussulman tenants, by the avowal of Christian kentébés, are not treated better than themselves, perhaps worse. The Beys more or less fear the noise which Christians may make by applying to their religious authorities or other parties, but they have no apprehension of this kind on the part of Mussulmans.

The condition of former tenants was superior to that of those of the present day, in as much as, owing to their limited number, they had at their disposal extensive lands, which, besides, were more productive than they now are. It must be borne in mind that natives having naturally taken possession of the best lands, those left to the lot of immigrants were the worst, and, according to the general statement, do not yield enough for the wants of the tenants. To this cause are assigned the emigrations which from time to time have taken place from this district.

Formerly, as the families augmented by natural increase and fresh immigrants, they could find unreclaimed lands to till. Now, not only are these lands very scarce, but the population which, especially in some places, is too thick for the extent, and the producing power of the land, is suddenly increased by the arrival of thousands of Laz immigrants.

The lands, which gradually were brought under cultivation by tenants, and which, according to the Mussulman law, should belong to them, have been appropriated by Beys and Agas. Whether they have so done in force of certain rights conferred on them by former Sultans, or arbitrarily, is a question which calls for an immediate and conscientious inquiry.

However this may be, while present tenants are as landless as their forefathers were on the first day of their arrival in the district, they see fresh immigrants, the Lazes, provided with lands, in some cases the very ones which they tilled themselves, and on which they consider to have rights of property.

The Lazes may be entitled to be provided with lands, their own, for motives of policy, having been handed over to Russia, but the impression produced on the landless tenant, who cannot understand political niceties, is no less keenly wounding.

This is one of the great motives of dissatisfaction, but the bitterest of all is the subjection under which they continue to moan.

Though they still are in a very backward state of intellectual development, yet the ideas of the day have so far pervaded the country that the tenants realize that which their forefathers did not—the horrors of the servitude in which they live.

They also complain that the Beys and Agas charge them with the land tax; though it is not excessive, it appears to them very vexatious and oppressive to pay tax on lands which do not belong to them.

Mussulmans have been placed in contact with the outer world by the wars, which called them out of their homes; they, as well as Christians, by the now existing facilities for travelling, and the latter by their relatives or friends who, from time to time, emigrated, especially to Russia, who often write, and some of whom return on an occasional visit to their native villages.

The new strain of ideas which has thus been awakened has given rise to a great restlessness and dissatisfaction, which hitherto existed in a latent state, but is now openly expressed by the lower classes. They seem to realize that the time has arrived for them to better their present condition, and I strongly believe that now that this feeling has taken root amongst them, Christians, in all cases, will emigrate, if not immediately, at all events, at a not remote period, unless some measure is adopted to satisfy their legitimate aspirations.

In October last, the Greek inhabitants of Hapsamané sent two Delegates to Russia, to make inquiries as to the facilities afforded to immigrants, and would already have emigrated, together with Greeks from other cantons, who followed their example, had not the Patriarch at Constantinople exerted himself to prevent the exodus.

In my humble opinion, the first step to be adopted should be to make a searching inquiry as to the right of property of the Beys and Agas on the extensive lands which they now hold as their own. Those lands on which they could not establish legal titles should be made over to the agriculturists who have brought them under culture, against payment of the usual purchase-money paid for Government lands. Besides performing an act of great justice towards the rural classes, the Porte would derive material benefit from the transfer.

There is no doubt that most, if not all, the lands now tenanted, would come under this category. The proof is, that lands of this kind have been granted to the Lazes, and if the Porte has a right to do so in favour of one class of immigrants, there is no motive why it should not exercise the same right for the benefit of the other class.

Indeed, in consequence of the movement of Christian emigration to Russia, 1,900 dekmuns of land have, within the last month, been assigned by the Porte to the villages of Tépékeui, Caradéré, Alandjik, Carabash, Haidar, Saïsa, Tsaoushlar, and Boltan. But on my passage there, they had not yet been handed over to the peasants, either owing to their not having yet paid the money claimed by the Government (20 piastres per dekmun), or owing to part of the lands having been taken possession of by Laz immigrants.

Though tenants are most anxious that it should be examined whether they have any right on the lands which they have tilled, they are reluctant to make the suggestion. They do not expect their demand to be taken into consideration; and if it were, it

would, they think, lead to no other result but to attract on them the revenge of the Beys. But even granting that the question should be decided in their favour, they never would, in the present condition of the Administration at Ordoo, enjoy the possession of the lands that might be awarded to them.

Cases came to my knowledge which bear out all these assertions.

When, about six months ago, the Greeks of Hapsamané were induced to renounce their project to depart for Russia, a petition was presented on their behalf, praying that their grievances against the lords should be inquired into and tried. They presented themselves to the Medjliss, and, after having stated their case, were told to prove that which is of public notoriety by witnesses, but that as all the Greeks were plaintiffs, they should present Mussulman witnesses to substantiate their charges, and the affair was thus allowed to drop.

Five years ago the Mussulman kentébés of Saghilli claimed the forest lands which they had brought under cultivation, and for which they paid rent to Beys, but they were put in prison. On their release, they applied to Trebizond, and obtained from the Vali an order for the trial of their claims, which was never carried out, though they endeavoured during two years to obtain a hearing of their case. The kentébé who had proceeded to Trebizond was evicted, and his cabin destroyed, by Djavet Bey.

Three years since, a certain Suleiman Oglou Essad Aga claimed as his own, the property of the Mussulman landowners of the village of Kurd Ahmed, which consists of twenty-five houses; but the latter had regular title-deeds, in presence of which the Medjliss itself was compelled to decide in their favour. Ever since, the Aga in question damages the crops of the peasants, and molests them in other ways, but the local authorities are powerless to protect them. As I did not happen to call at this village, the Mussulmans thereof forwarded a messenger to apprize me of the case. Having missed me at Hapsamané, he followed me on the road to Boulaman, where he delivered his message to me.

At present, except in such cases as arson or murder, no peasant thinks of lodging a complaint against the Beys and Agas. They know by experience that it will lead to no result, as the lords are the offenders and the Judges.

Their cattle damage the fields of the tenants, for which they can obtain no redress. Cattle-lifting and other thefts, in which the Beys, as well as Nihoglou Abdullah Aga, the Aga of Hapsamané (of whom I spoke in a despatch from Trebizond) seem to have a hand, are of frequent occurrence. Landowners themselves are subject to these vexations, and uselessly complain to the authorities, though the thieves are known to them.

Mussulmans suffer from another great evil from which Christians are exempt. Their wives are carried off, and only returned to them when the ravisher chooses to do so. The daughter-in-law of one of my Hapsamané muleteers is, since a month, in the hands of a certain Hassan Aga. On her husband complaining, the Mudir sent one of the six zaptiehs at his disposal, to rescue her, but the Aga refused to give her up, and that was all. The night after my passage at the village of Fundukli, another Mussulman woman was carried off. Four months ago, at the village of Hatundjik, a certain Yanikoglou Osman was about to be married, when Alaï Bey Oglou Emin, the Aga of the village, carried off the intended bride, whom he wanted to marry to one of his attendants, and the girl is still with him.

In a word, there is but a nominal Government at Ordoo. There are eighteen zaptiehs at the residence of the Kaïmakam, from four to six in each of the remaining cantons, and two mounted gendarmes in all the district. The real rulers are the Beys and the Agas. It is impossible to check the present lawless condition of Ordoo, with the Administration as it now exists.

If any steps be taken to recognize the right which tenants may have on the lands now held by the Beys as their own, contemporaneous measures should be adopted to protect the first measure without the second would be worse than nothing.

There is a very hard case in which, owing first to the injustice, and subsequently to the powerlessness of the Local Government, thirty-five Greek families, but especially ten out of them, are in great distress.

On the eastern side of the canton of Ordoo proper there are three small Greek villages: Kirijdjuk, Isoghi, and Caradéré; the first inhabited by fifteen, the two others by ten families each. Two years since six out of the ten houses of Caradéré were accidentally burnt to the ground.

On the arrival of the Lazes, the then acting Kaïmakam having assigned to them the lands of the Caradéré peasants, the latter were compelled to remove to the two other villages, abandoning their crops.

They complained to the Kaïmakam, but he having paid no attention to their demand, their crops were destroyed or gathered by the Lazes, who, though receiving Government rations at the time, kept exacting food from them during the winter.

In May last they again claimed the restitution of their fields, but no heed being taken of their demands, the Lazes, who at that time were twenty-seven families, fourteen of whom since removed elsewhere, have sown their fields, and actually live in the four houses which were spared by the fire. The inhabitants of Kirijdjuk, and Isoghi, who had lands at Caradéré, those in their own villages being inadequate to their wants, have likewise been dispossessed of them by the Lazes.

The inhabitants of Caradéré proceeded to the seashore to embark for Russia, and were induced to remain under the promise of having returned to them their lands, on which the Beys seem to have no claim, but nothing of the kind has yet been done. They have had no fields to sow this year, and hitherto have lived on charity, and by the sale of the little movable property remaining to them, in the expectation of seeing their wrongs redressed.

The statement of the inhabitants of Caradéré was confirmed to me by the Kaïmakam of Ordoo himself, who, though recognizing that the flagrant injustice done to them required redress, said that the Lazes did not want to give up the lands, and that he had not the means to compel them to do so. He has been instructed to issue the title-deeds for the land in the name of the Greeks of Caradéré, and to make them pay like others 20 piastres per deunum. But I believe that, if even their lands are returned, the least that could be done for them would be to exact no payment for them.

The inhabitants of the villages near which there are Laz settlements are compelled to provide them with food (to which they would help themselves if it were not willingly given), and they will be under the necessity to continue to do so for at least the coming year, as the crops of the Lazes will not be sufficient for their maintenance. On an average the produce they will gather will hardly last them from three to four months.

Of this I have been able to judge by myself having passed through their largest village, which is situate at Kabakdagh, in the district of Boulaman, and which nearly contains 100 families. They told me that only half the mountain on which they live has been assigned to them, and that if the whole of it were given for their exclusive use, it still would be inadequate for their wants.

Seven Greek families that resided in this spot were compelled to abandon their houses and lands owing to an attempt of the Lazes to carry off some of their women. They now live in the Greek village of Elet, but have had no lands to sow this year.

I was told that in the village of Parnedjik, in the canton of Perchembé, a Greek girl was being carried off by Lazes, when she was rescued by her brother. She was slightly wounded in the struggle, and shortly after died from the effects of the fright.

At Alandjik the Lazes seem to addict themselves more particularly to cattle-lifting. A cow having lately been retaken from them, they carried off a Greek boy, for whose rescue 70 piastres (14*s.*) had to be paid.

The Mussulmans of the villages of Saghilli, Karakirij, Yerde, Oola, Kereli, &c., after having erected huts for the Lazes, were asked to remove them elsewhere, and as they could not comply with the request, it being harvest time, each village had to pay from 8*l.* to 12*l.* to the Laz Chief, Hassan Aga.

The Lazes that last year settled at Ordoo number about 1,200, who, together with the 2,300 landed this year, make a total of 3,500 persons, whose maintenance falls on the inhabitants; but I must say that in this respect Mussulmans are more heavily taxed than Christians.

Peasants in the district of Ordoo pay "temetuah," or income tax. This is the first instance in which I have seen this tax, which is exclusively levied in towns on trade and industries, being exacted from the rural class. I supposed at first that it was only paid by certain peasants who addicted themselves to some industry; but I have ascertained that it is indistinctly levied on all of them. It varies from 7½ to 45 piastres a-year, and there seems to be no exact rule for the amount to be paid by each man. It is a matter of chance. The levying of this tax in the district of Ordoo is an abuse against which the agricultural class is very clamorous.

The collection of the tithe gives rise to many unlawful transactions. It being levied here on the presumable yield, the tax-collector makes an exaggerated estimation in order to be bribed for reducing it. This takes place, but the local authorities forward a comptroller, who is followed by a second one, and the same process of exaggerated

valuation and of reduction on the payment of a bribe are gone through each time. It would seem that tenants are subject to more vexations under this head than landowners; and the former believe that the lords, in order to make themselves a profit thereby, are foreign to the intrigue.

The fact is, that the management of affairs is more in their hands than in those of the Government officials. Sometimes they do not even take the trouble to go through the formality of having the cases tried by the Courts of Justice. They act according to their caprice.

The following instance was cited to me:—

In the village of Katir Keuissi a Mussulman named Dervisheglou Memich, having died, leaving three daughters, the Aga Bonazoglou Memich, divided the property of the deceased between the two daughters. The third, named Anifé, received nothing, for the simple motive that such was the will of the Aga.

There is no proportion in the taxation paid in different localities. I was told that five Greek families, numbering together fifteen males, babies included, paid 668 piastres, or 44½ piastres per head at Teinely, instead of 27½ piastres, which is the general average. Cases of this description were mentioned to me in other villages.

There is only one Court of Justice at Ordoo, of which the Cadi is the President, and takes cognizance of civil and criminal, as well as of commercial, matters. In a place like Ordoo, which has a certain commercial importance, a commercial Tribunal would be greatly desirable.

Such is the condition of the district of Ordoo, to which must be added the venality of the Government officials, and I can vouch that there is not in the present Report a word that can be taxed of exaggeration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 61.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 25.*)

(No. 24. Political.)
Fatza, August 2, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the inhabitants of thirty Mussulman villages in the district of Hapsamané sent fifteen delegates to meet me at Boulaman, but having arrived there after my departure, three of them came as far as Fatza.

They begged me, in the name of the inhabitants of the villages in question, to write and explain that the burden which is thrown on them to maintain the Laz immigrants that arrived lately is beyond their means; that both themselves and the Lazes will be subject to privations and sufferings; and that they apprehend serious complications if matters are allowed to continue as they now stand.

As I was about to depart from Hapsamané the order came to deliver to the highest bidder, an Armenian of Ordoo, 35,000 okes (about 1,750 bushels) of Indian corn, which had lately been offered for sale out of the Government granaries in that canton. These granaries, which consist of the tithe collected in kind on account of the Government, are supposed to be kept in reserve from one to another year, for the purpose of providing for immediate and unexpected wants of the population.

It would be difficult to say why any of the quantities of corn thus stored should be sold just as 2,300 Lazes are immigrating all of a sudden in the district, and at a time when the supplies of the inhabitants are nearly exausted, it drawing on the close of the agricultural season.

Be this as it may, as the highest tender was only 11 paras per oke, or 1*s.* per bushel, a very low price indeed, the Chiefs of the Lazes recently arrived from Batoum on hearing of the circumstance, with a view to escape starvation, and they also say in order to avoid being too heavy a burden on the inhabitants, made the following proposal, which, when I left, was about to be communicated to the Government: that all the corn in the Government stores at Hapsamané should be kept for their use, they engaging in writing, as they have no money to pay for it now, to return on their coming crops the quantities lent to them.

The chances are that they never will do so, but the outlay is so insignificant for the Government, and the relief so immense for the populations and the immigrants, that perhaps hesitation is impossible.

In fact, the average quantity of corn consumed by each Laz per month being 1 kilé, and the price offered for it at public auction being one 1s. per kilé, the maintenance of each Laz would cost the Government less than 3*d.* a-week.

With so incredibly trifling an expense the Government would relieve the population of Hapsamané from a heavy burden, which they declare to be beyond their means, and perhaps prevent serious complications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 62.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 25. Political.)
Ooniah, August 7, 1880.

My Lord,

THE River Boulaman Chai is the eastern boundary of the district of Fatza, through which I travelled from north to south, arriving here yesterday.

The main physical features are much the same as at Ordoo, with the important difference, however, that at Fatza the sides of the hills are not so abrupt, and that there is more level ground on high lands. The soil has, therefore, preserved more of its producing power, the average yield being 1 to 15. There are, besides, more uncultivated tracts of land than at Ordoo.

Fatza, which formerly was a nahié (canton) of Ooniah, is now a Kaimakamlik, comprising eighty-six villages, inhabited by 11,446 Mussulmans, 641 Greeks, 369 Armenians, being a total of 12,459 noufous (males), to which must be added a little more than an equal number for females, giving in round numbers a total of 26,000 souls.

The few Armenians who are here have likewise come from Hamseen, and the Greeks from Gumurshani. Mussulmans also seem to have immigrated from the inland districts of Geurtin, which, like Gumurshani, is little adapted for agriculture.

There being here no Beys or Agas holding so extensive estates as at Ordoo, no traces remain of the feudal system, but some Mussulmans take advantage of certain influence they possess to add to their landed property fallow lands tilled by their poorer co-religionists and by Christians.

I may say, however, that nearly all the inhabitants of Fatza are landowners. Christians themselves, in general, possess a plot of ground of more or less extent; but it being inadequate for their wants they, as well as about 500 Mussulman families, who are supposed to be the descendants of the immigrants from Geurtin, are compelled to rent lands from landowners better off than themselves, sometimes Beys or Agas, but who in no case exact compulsory labour from their tenants.

In general, the conditions of rent are the same as at Ordoo, and sometimes less advantageous, inasmuch as in some cases they have to halve the produce with the landowner; but the fact must be taken into consideration that it is only for part of the lands which they cultivate that they have to pay rent, and that they are not subject to servitude.

In general, Mussulmans obtain title-deeds for the lands which they bring under culture without paying any purchase-money to the Government.

Those which, being covered with forests, are tilled by Chistians and by the descendants of the Mussulman immigrants, are taken possession of by natives, who claim them as having belonged to their forefathers.

It is mostly on these lands that the former have to pay rent, though in the eyes of the law they have more right than natives to their possession. Usually no rent is exacted during the first three years of tillage. They have had to pay for the lands which they now hold with title-deeds.

Six years since the Greek inhabitants of Fatza, with the permission of the Government, tilled about 100 donums of forest lands on the mountain called Oozoon Orman, but they could never obtain title-deeds, though they paid about 30*l.* for the purpose to different parties, amongst others 6*l.* to Ali Effendi, who was, and still is, Mal-Mudiri at Ooniah. They erected houses, which were pulled down by the inhabitants of the village of Serkis, of which the Mal-Mudiri in question is a native, who claim the ownership of the forest. However, the Greeks informed me that, having again applied for the long sought for title-deeds within the course of the present week, that is since my arrival at Fatza, they were promised that they would forthwith be issued in their names,

and, as in the case of Mussulmans, without other payment than that of 4 piastres for the "tapou" (title-deed).

There are cases in which rent is exacted from Christians who have been in possession for years, free of rent, of lands tilled by them.

Twelve years since the Armenian Pehlivanoglou Agob brought under culture two donums of forest land, for which he was unable to obtain a "tapou." Since three years a certain Abdioglou Osman exacts from him the third of the produce. The Moukhtar of the village of Aghdje Alan, Kadioglou Osman, where the same Agob possesses other lands tilled by his father, and for which rent was never paid, took this year from him 300 piastres. Agob was unable to obtain redress from the local authorities in either case.

Similar and other motives affecting the population in general, and of which I shall speak in the course of the present Report, had induced the few Christians living in the district of Fatza to think of emigrating to Russia, but no preparations of departure were made, and they are far from showing the same decision as their co-religionists at Ordoo.

Great dissatisfaction prevails among Mussulmans with regard to the location of Lazes, who in their turn are far from content.

Three hundred and seventeen families of immigrants were landed last year at Fatza; about one-third of them are still houseless and landless. They, therefore, have been unable to sow, and the whole burden of their maintenance will continue to weigh on the population. The other two-thirds have been located in ten villages, in nearly equal number as the natives. The consequence is that lands which were held by natives in force of regular title-deeds, were given over to Lazes, and that the lands thus parcelled out are insufficient for both.

Their location was the source of uninterrupted vexations for, and extortions from, the inhabitants, especially of the villages in the vicinity of which they were located, but also of those of some in which they were not.

I shall cite a few cases of extortion practised by a Suleiman Bey, who was Acting Kaimakam at the time, which were mentioned to me by the interested parties.

In order to save their lands, which all the same were given over to the immigrants, the following sums were paid to him by—

Hadji Hassanoglou, of the village of Erken, 450 piastres.
Djelaloglou Reshid, of the village of Karkisjak, 1*l.*, and a horse worth 10*l.*
The villages of Coulpar and Penejik, 6*l.* and 8*l.* respectively.
The immigrants themselves 6*l.*, in order to obtain lands at Aghdje Kissé.
Lazes were located in villages whose inhabitants refused to pay certain sums asked by Suleiman Bey, as shown hereafter.

From the quarter of Mundjik, a dependency of Aghdje Alan, and the village of Aghdje Kissé, 9*l.* and 5*l.* respectively.

From the Armenian village of Tsihukhu, 60 okes of butter, representing 600 piastres, of which only 16 okes were given.

The property of Pendjoglou Halil, who had just returned from military service, was also given over to the immigrants on his refusing to pay 4*l.*

The brothers Cadioglou Mehmed and Dousoon, of the village of Aghdje Alan, who had also just returned from the army, and had no money to pay 2*l.* asked from them, were similarly treated.

The following case appears to me especially sad:—

Kutukoglou Halil gave to Suleiman Bey, through his man Hadji Osmanoglou Mehmed, 6 okes of butter, which he asked in order not to locate Lazes on the lands which belonged to himself and four brothers, three of whom are still soldiers; but 5*l.* being asked in addition, and he being unable to pay, half the lands which the five brothers possessed were given over to Lazes, under the pretext that they had been left untilled, and such really was the case since the departure of the three brothers for the army. He claimed, but was threatened by Suleiman Bey to be imprisoned for three years, and was actually kept in prison for a few hours.

Most of the lands given to the immigrants belong to individuals who, still being under the standard, could not defend their rights, or who, being just released from military service, were considered to have forfeited their title to property, the lands having remained untilled during the three or four years of service, and which is the strict limit fixed by the Mussulman law. The same was done with lands belonging to under-age orphans who were unable to sow them.

Forty-five Mussulmans were drafted in the army from the village of Karkindjak. Fifteen of them died, most of the others are still in the army, but on their return they will find no lands.

Such was the case with Mentegoglou Mehmed, of Erkén, with Moustafaoglou Moustafa, of Aghdjo Alan, and with the brothers Abdurahmanoglou Mehmed and Mustafa, of the same village. Out of the property of the latter's father, consisting of 20 donums, which were to be divided between themselves and three sisters, 10 donums were in the hands of Lazes.

The lands of Kiatiboglou Salih, and of Anoglou Bekir, of Karkindjak, who were killed during the war, and left three orphans each, were given over to immigrants. The same was done with the property of the brothers Tapagioglou Ahmed, who likewise was killed during the war, and Mahmoud, who died here, the first leaving three and the second two children.

It is useless to continue citing examples. It is the same in all the villages where Lazes are located. But of all of them, that of Karkindjak, consisting of sixty houses, is the one that suffers most in all respects. There are fifty-seven families of immigrants now residing there, of whom twelve that lately removed from Tsibuklu (the only Christian village where there were Lazes) seem to be of the worst possible character. About a month ago, at daylight, they broke into the house of a Moustafa Tsnouch, and attempted to carry off his daughter. He received a severe sword-cut on the head, and his wife, who was pregnant, suffered from the consequences of having been ill-treated. The same Lazes are still watching for carrying off Moustafa Tsnouch's daughter.

A fortnight ago they ravished the daughter of Kirdoglou, 12 years old.

An old man, aged 80, named Kentoglou, related to me in shedding tears that since three months a Laz family, of those arrived from Tsibuklu, has been living with him in his house against his will, and that he cannot protect his two daughters-in-law, whose husbands are in the army, and their five children. Their scanty provisions are taken from them and they are beaten.

The Mussulmans of this village told me that, out of the fifty-seven Laz families, twenty which are now collected at Bog Dagh can remain there without giving them trouble, but that if the whole of them continued to reside in the village, they being as numerous as themselves, and giving them just motives of apprehension, which prevent them from leaving their wives and children alone and attend to their callings, they would be compelled to emigrate themselves.

However, misdeeds are as well perpetrated by Lazes in other villages. They carried off, at Isaltman, from the Mukhtar's house, the wife of Bulgooroglou Hassan, who temporarily resided there pending the settlement of a question with her husband; at Bidge, the wife of Djansijoglou Nouri; at Kavlak they ravished the daughter of Najiboglou Nouri; and at Demirli that of Karavaisoglou, who was detained by them six days.

And, however, the Lazes depend on natives for food, the Government rations, which they received until March last, being insufficient. Since, 50,000 piastres have been assigned to them for their maintenance during three months, at the expiration of which period nothing more will be given them by the Government. Only one-third of this sum has been handed to them owing to want of funds.

Not being content with some of the spots assigned to them, and where huts were erected by the natives, the Lazes removed to other places, and everywhere increased by further encroachments the extent of the lands awarded to them by the local authorities in the manner explained above.

A few Abazian families, settled since 1878 in the vicinity of Aghdjo Alan and Meidan, follow the example of the Lazes, under the leadership of the Abazian, Suleiman Bey, whose object seems to be to have lands at his disposal in order to attract some of his countrymen from neighbouring places and thus increase the number of his followers.

Most of the lands of which the Abazians took possession likewise belong to men who were serving in the army and to orphans, and who uselessly apply to the local authorities for protection.

However, the misdeeds of Lazes, and the arbitrary acts perpetrated by them and the Abazians, only prove the lawless condition of the district and the want of power of the Government to repress disorders. But there is another more serious side of the question, inasmuch as it shows an absolute carelessness on the part of the Government to deal fairly with the poorer classes of their subjects.

In the land question two diametrically opposite principles are followed at Ordoo and Fatza for the recognition of the right of ownership on lands; but in either case the principle adopted by the local authorities for dealing with the question is that which turns to the disadvantage of the lower class of agriculturists, whether Christians or Mussulmans.

On the one hand, the law of the country is followed to the letter for the reversion to the State of lands held in force of regular title-deeds, but which were untilled for

three or four years, owing to the fact that the owners are orphans under age, or men serving in the army.

On the other hand, lands which were never tilled, and which, when brought under cultivation by peasants, are claimed by, and awarded by the Porte, which issues "tapous" in their names, to Beys, Agas, or other persons of influence, though they have no titles of any kind to substantiate their rights thereon; thus wresting from the hands of the agriculturers fallow lands which they reclaimed, and to the ownership of which they alone are entitled according to the Mussulman Legislature.

Surely this is a state of things which calls for more attention than has hitherto been bestowed on it by the Porte.

Suleiman Bey, the Acting Kaïmakam at Fatza at the time of the Laz immigration, is a native of Boulaman, and one of the great landlords in that district. He lives here since a number of years, and has been several times in charge of the Government. There is a general voice of reprobation against his conduct on all these occasions.

I met, at the summer residence of the newly-appointed Kaïmakam at Fatza, a Mussa Effendi, lately sent as Special Commissioner to inquire into and report on the condition of the district, and who appears to be a conscientious man.

Two Commissioners for the Laz immigration visited Fatza before him: Ali Bey, one of the Sultan's Aides-de-camp, who slept one night at Fatza, and a certain Emin Effendi, from Trebizond, who spent a day there; and both gave very favourable reports.

Those which I had received, and which I transmitted to your Lordship from Trebizond, not agreeing with the information of the Commissioners, I communicated them at the time to Sirri Pasha, who showed me telegrams from the Mutessarif of Samsoon, in whose sandjak Fatza is situated, highly praising the conduct of Suleiman Bey.

However, the truth seems at last to have oozed out. Mussa Effendi told me he was very glad I should see by myself and make known the condition of the district, which will be of great help to him for convincing his superiors.

The charges against Suleiman Bey are numerous and of various descriptions.

I cite a few as examples:—

He seized, and never returned, the horses of Soïtaroglou, of Tepelan, and of Cadioglou, of Fundukli.

He asked, and was paid, 800 piastres by the village of Tsetsula, and 500 piastres by that of Tepelan, under the pretext of remitting 1,764 piastres and 1,600 piastres of arrears of taxation respectively due by them. This took place on the issue of a Firman in 1875, remitting all arrears due to Government, which, however, have been collected all the same.

He borrowed 200 kilés of Indian corn from Tsakiroglou Ismail, of Koulpar, to whom he returned only 180 kilés, besides exacting from him 2*l.*

Though Isakiroglou Hadji Halil Oglou Hassan, of Koulpar, was not liable to conscription, he imprisoned him, under the pretext of enrolment, and only released him on his paying 6*l.*

He received 800 piastres from Sarioglou Mehmed for exempting his son from military service, and 600 piastres from Kentioglou Ismail, of Deukunluk, for the same purpose, though they were sent to the army.

He exacted 44*l.* from the village of Kazma Aliah for a murder committed in its vicinity, the perpetrators of which were unknown.

2,800 piastres were subscribed by the inhabitants of the town of Fatza for the erection of a fountain, and the money was confided by the Vali to Suleiman Bey for the purpose of defraying the expenses, but he never paid the Greek masons who built it.

Extortions have not been practised only by Suleiman Bey. The Mal-Mudiri, Hamid Effendi, has also exacted money under different pretexts; for instance, 900 piastres from Sarioglou, of Saidja, and Tsaledgioglu Moustafa, respectively, for handing to them the masbatta exempting them from military service. But the most extraordinary act of extortion is the following:—

Formerly, the district of Futza, as it is still the case in that of Ordoo, was paying "temetuah" (income tax); but three years since, on the inhabitants complaining, an order came from the Porte for the abolition of this tax, which is now only levied in the town, and from a few Armenians in the villages of Kubudush and Yarbashi, who are coopers and masons.

On the receipt of the order in question, a certain Abdullah Effendi, in whose department it was handed for execution, and who is now tax collector, promised the peasants to obtain the abolition of "temetuah" on their paying him certain sums.

The following are those which I have ascertained as having been paid to him for the

purpose:—The village of Batari Alish, 90 piastres; those of Koulak, Maodaleh, Serkis, and Kadenkeui, 100 piastres each; of Door Ali and Abdullah Bey Sooi, 150 piastres each; of Tsok Deirmen, Kissé Kissa, and Kikdjeli, 200 piastres each, in addition to which the latter also gave 120 okes of butter; of Bassitash and Keshdi, 250 piastres each; of Kooz Pougari, 300 piastres, together with 10 okes of butter and four sheep; of Saidje, 400 piastres; and the list for Mussulman villages is far from complete. Armenians gave 3 okes of butter, one sheep, and 3 bushels of wheat. Nothing was exacted from Greeks.

The Armenians of Tsibukli related to me that a receipt for the taxation of the year 1289 (1873) having been abstracted from them by a Haini Effendi, a Government official, the payment of the same tax was again claimed from them.

The same Armenians hold a receipt for 2,147 okes of Indian corn lent in 1878 to the Government for immigrants, and which were to be returned on the collection of the tithe, but which were not, and very likely never will be given back.

Mussulman villages are in the same case, for quantities varying in amount.

In order to have a complete idea of the condition of the district of Fatza, to the above extortions should be added those usually practised on the collection of the tithe, which, however, are not of so vexatious a character as at Ordoo.

I also saw at Fatza the Vicar of the Greek Bishop of Neo Cesarea, who, since last year, is travelling over the disaffected districts of the Diocese, and who came from a distance of fifteen hours for the purpose of meeting me.

He stated to me that about 100 families from the villages of Niksar had sent five delegates to Kars to make arrangements for settling there. As Russia offers to give them lands, they intend to emigrate in autumn next.

He related and gave me in writing the following information:—

In the village of Tsamas, district of Ordoo, lives a certain Davidoglou Mollah Omer, who, being a very daring man, decided to free the surrounding country from thieves, who left no peace to the inhabitants. As he is feared, he succeeded in his object, but the Beys and Agas, who seem to divide the spoil with the plunderers, having accused him of being a brigand himself, lately the Government gave orders to chase and kill him if he resisted. He, therefore, being compelled to keep concealed at present, the thieves have again commenced their depredations.

I intend to communicate this information to Sirri Pasha, the Governor-General of Trebizond, who issued the order in question against Davidoglou Mollah Omer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S. *August* 8.—I just hear that the Commissioner Moussa Effendi is recalled, and that the Mutessarif of Samsoon himself is proceeding to inspect the district of Fatza.

A. B.

No. 63.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 187.) *Therapia, August* 26, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

I SHOULD think it expedient to settle answer to Porte on Armenian question very soon, as prolonged delay might be misinterpreted. Russian Ambassador has received instructions approving draft note agreed upon by Ambassadors.

No. 64.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 420.) *Foreign Office, August* 26, 1880.
Sir,

I HAVE received from Major Trotter a despatch of the 24th ultimo, identical with his No. 31 to your Excellency, giving a very deplorable account of the state of affairs in the new Vilayet of Bitlis. Your Excellency will no doubt take an opportunity of calling the attention of the Turkish Government to this Report, and especially to what is said as to the entire absence of any local Tribunals of Justice, and the

awkward position in which Colonel Norton, of the gendarmerie, is placed in consequence of his being unprovided with a Firman.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 65.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 42. Political.) *Beyrout, August* 13, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, No. 53, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the appointment of Midhat Pasha as Vali of Smyrna, and on the arrival of his successor, Hamdi Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 53.) *Beyrout, August* 13, 1880.
Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 29th ultimo Hussein Fevzi Pasha, Aide-de-camp to His Majesty the Sultan, arrived here by the French Messageries steamer. He was not expected, and his coming created some surprise, and on landing he demanded a salute from the garrison fort. On reaching Beyrout he immediately telegraphed for his Excellency Rustem Pasha, Governor-General of the Lebanon, to come and meet him, but his Excellency, being indisposed, was not able to quit Bteddin, his mountain residence. Hussein Fevzi accordingly started on the 31st ultimo for Bteddin, whence, after having an interview with Rustem Pasha, he took his departure for Damascus, arriving there on Sunday, the 1st instant.

On the following day he received a telegram appointing him Mushir of the 5th Army Corps, in the room of Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, and directing him at the same time to take charge of the Government of Syria. Midhat Pasha was, therefore, for the time being out of office, but on the 4th instant he received a somewhat flattering message from the Sultan appointing him Vali of Smyrna, and stating that Hamdi Pasha, the Vali of Smyrna, was named Governor-General of Syria. On learning this news, I informed your Excellency of it by telegraph on the 6th instant.

On the 10th instant his Highness Hamdi Pasha arrived at Beyrout in the dispatch-boat "Jezedin," and was received with the usual ceremony, and on the same day Midhat Pasha came from Damascus. Midhat Pasha takes his departure this evening for Smyrna in the same vessel that brought Hamdi Pasha, and the latter will leave for Damascus to-morrow, the 14th instant.

Although the removal of Midhat Pasha so unexpectedly has created some surprise, yet the event has been looked upon with satisfaction by the people in general, and in particular, I understand, by the Mussulmans of Damascus. His successor, Hamdi Pasha, has been welcomed with feelings of pleasure, as the very good reputation he bore when he was Governor-General of Syria about five years ago has not been forgotten, and everybody is hopefully looking forward to his at least correcting the disorders that are rampant in the administration of the country, if not to his improving the government of the country altogether.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 66.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 446.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, August 30, 1880, 5·15 P.M.

YOURS No. 187.

The draft note on Armenian question has our entire approval. The sooner it can be presented the better.

No. 67.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 423. Extender.)

Foreign Office, August 30, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government entirely approve of the terms of the draft note on the Armenian question, as agreed upon by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, and they consider that no time should be lost in presenting it to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 68.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 268.)

Therapia, August 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed by Vice-Consul Russell to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, giving particulars respecting the relief afforded at Mossul during the famine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Russell to Lieutenant-Colonel Miles.

(No. 30.)

Mossul, June 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an account, with the balance-sheet attached, of the money expended in relieving the poor of Mossul from the 1st June to the 6th, inclusive, when the relief fund was wound up, as prices had fallen so much that I did not think it necessary to distribute bread any longer.

The wheat and barley harvest have turned out better than any one expected, and I understand that in some places for 1 wezna of wheat sown 30 weznas will be reaped. There is every likelihood of a very rapid fall in present prices by the end of the month, when the wheat harvest will be finished. Some time ago the Porte sent an order here stating that the Government were not to collect the tithes from the villages as in former years, but that the villages were to be sold by auction. A few days ago, however, a second order came rescinding the first one, so the tithes will be collected as usual. The inhabitants of Mossul have just started a petition to the Porte, praying that the "Sulian" tax may not be levied this year, as they have suffered so much already from the late famine and stagnation of trade. I think their prayer is a just one, and trust that it will be listened to, as the "Sulian," if levied, will increased the distress of thousands of families.

With reference to my telegram of the 10th instant and my despatch No. 20, I beg to inform you that I asked the opinion of the different heads of the Christian and Jewish communities whether further foreign relief was necessary, and if so, for what reasons. They stated their opinion as follows, which is pretty correct. They said, although prices had fallen greatly, there was still a good deal of distress amongst these classes, who had sold all everything, and that trade being nearly at a standstill they have not the money to buy even at the present low prices, and required relief still. The weavers especially are in a bad way, as they cannot work, there being no buyers, and they cannot afford to

keep their manufactures on hand. In all the trades it is the same story, and matters are not likely to improve until the following autumn. Complete recovery from such a severe famine as we have had must take time.

The different communities are still giving relief in a small way to their particular poor. In conclusion, I think that if there funds to spare they could be usefully distributed in Mossul in relieving those families who before the famine were pretty well off, but are now obliged to ask their Bishops and clergy for assistance. As I was about to close this despatch your telegram came to hand authorizing me to receive 50 Turkish liras, for which we tend many thanks to the donors, and will see that it is judiciously employed in relief of the needy. I beg to report that there are no fresh rumours of any serious sickness in Mossul or the villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. RUSSELL.

No. 69.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 267.)

Therapia, August 22, 1880.

My Lord,

A STATEMENT has appeared recently in the "Tirdjimani Efkiari," an Armenian newspaper published in Constantinople, to the effect that several of the leading members of the Armenian Gregorian communities at Antioch, Aleppo, and Zeitoun have refused to recognize the spiritual authority of the Catoghicos, or Patriarch of Syz (in Cilicia), and wish to place themselves under the immediate jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Echmiatzin.

I am vaguely informed that they are doing so at the instigation of the Russian authorities in those places. However this may be, the fact of the Armenians wishing to place themselves under the immediate jurisdiction of a See which is situated in Russia is indicative of the tendency there is on their part to look to Russia for protection.

Your Lordship will recollect that Captain Clayton reported at the end of last year on a movement among the Armenians in his Consular district having a similar object in view. In that case large numbers of Armenians wished to enter the Greek Orthodox Church in order to be able to claim Russian protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 70.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 273.)

Therapia, August 23, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 209 and 210 of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to state that I have been in communication with M. Tissot on the subject of the Lebanon regiment of dragoons and the encroachments by Syria on the Lebanon. I considered it desirable in the first instance that we should obtain, as much as possible, joint action, in our representations to the Porte, of the Representatives of the other Guaranteeing Powers; but the French Ambassador informed me that he had spoken to the Russian Ambassador on the question, and that the latter, while cordially sympathizing with the object we had in view, seemed little disposed to act, though it would have been natural that he should take a personal interest in the affairs of the Lebanon having been a member of the International Commission of 1861. I spoke to the German and Austrian Ambassadors on the matter; but they, too, were not at the moment prepared to act.

M. Tissot and myself, therefore, in order to avoid delays, will address notes to the Porte on the points respecting which our Governments considered that representations should be made to the Ottoman Government. At the same time we will keep our colleagues informed of the communications we may make, or of my answer that we may receive.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have in consequence addressed to the Porte, and which is drawn up in a sense similar to that which will be

presented by M. Tissot, though we considered it advisable that the notes should not be in identic terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Note addressed by Mr. Goschen to the Porte.

Therapia, August 23, 1880.

HER Majesty's Embassy feels compelled to draw the serious attention of the Sublime Porte to certain departures from the Statute regulating the administration of the Lebanon, which, if permitted to continue, are likely to produce grave consequences.

In the first place, Her Majesty's Embassy desires to refer to the alterations which have gradually taken place both in the composition and organization of the Lebanon regiment of dragoons—alterations of such a nature as to completely change the character of that body, and to practically nullify the object for which it were originally instituted.

The Sublime Porte is well aware that when, with the consent of the Guaranteeing Powers, this regiment was given to the Government of the Lebanon, it was advisedly largely recruited from Christians, commanded by a Christian, placed under the direct control of the Governor-General of the Mountain, and quartered at Tripoli and Beyrout. It was then considered that this system of organization and composition would best ensure its efficiency in repressing disorders, and would render it immediately available in case of necessity. The Christian element, however, has been gradually eliminated, and the regiment is now almost entirely recruited from the Moslem. The final step towards depriving it altogether of its original character has lately been made by meaning a Moslem officer to command in the place of the Christian Colonel. In itself this alteration would be sufficient to establish a deviation from the intentions of the Guaranteeing Powers, but another measure which has been recently enforced has completely destroyed the value of the regiment for the special duties which were entrusted to it. The regiment has been taken away from the Government of the Lebanon, and is to be stationed at Damascus, and placed under the Mushir of the Vth Army Corps.

Her Majesty's Embassy has also heard, though it cannot vouch for the truth of the report, that the flag, bearing the ensign of the Cross, which was the standard of the regiment, has also been taken away from it.

Her Majesty's Embassy cannot but believe that when these facts are brought before the knowledge of the Sublime Porte that measures will at once be taken to restore the command of the regiment to a Christian, to give to Christians the position they formerly held in the regiment, and to entrust the control of the regiment to the Governor of the Lebanon, so that it may always be at hand and ready in case of need, and not stationed at a distance under a command distinct from, and independent of, the Mountain.

Her Majssty's Embassy regret to state that, from the information which it has received, it appears that the subsidy due to the Mountain from the Porte, under Article 15 of the Organic Statute, as amended in 1864, has not been paid since 1877. This subsidy forms part of a solemn engagement entered into by the Porte towards the Mountain, and Her Majesty's Embassy must request that orders should be sent to Vali of Syria to continue the payment of it.

Her Majesty's Embassy has further to draw the attention of the Sublime Porte to the claim made by the Government of Syria to deprive the Lebanon of a portion of its territory named Houreisheh, situated between the town of Almoumard and that of Enfeh. This demand on the part of the Province of Syria is in direct violation of the Organic Statute which defined the limits of the Mountain, and Her Majesty's Embassy requests that the Sublime Porte will allow no claim of this nature to disturb the boundary line, and will give orders for its restoration.

Another case of a similar nature has also been brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Embassy, namely, the attempts made by the Governor of Syria to annex Moussera to the town of Tripoli. The right of the Mountain over this territory is undoubted, and cannot be disputed. The inhabitants of Tripoli occupied it in 1874, and Her Majesty's Embassy must demand its restitution to its rightful owners. If

the Government of the Lebanon are willing to accept some other territory in exchange for the district of Moussera, Her Majesty's Embassy sees no objection to the appointment of a Commissioner to carry out an arrangement of this nature.

The limits of the Lebanon in the south towards Sida are vague and uncertain, and not unfrequently confusion arises in the settlement of disputes. It would be of great advantage if a Commission were appointed to settle the exact boundary-line in that direction, and put an end to the conflict of jurisdiction which at present exists.

In the district of Zamie, which in the Règlement is understood as belonging to the Lebanon, there are six villages—Ardet, Gale, Almat, Keferhaba, Muriata, and Ayke—which are under the jurisdiction of the Vilayet of Syria. This anomaly gives rise to complications in the administration of justice and in the government of the district, and so abnormal a condition of things should cease. These six villages should be placed under the Government of the Lebanon. An exception might be made with regard to Gale—a spot to which Moslems are in the habit of making pilgrimages—and which might, therefore, be left under the Government of the Syrian Vilayet.

Her Majesty's Embassy, in laying the above facts before the Sublime Porte, must impress upon it the gravity of the consequences which may ensue if such deviations from the provisions of the Organic Statute, which regulates the administration of the Lebanon, are persisted in and are not checked by the Ottoman Government. Her Majesty's Embassy, therefore, request that the point raised in the present note be taken into immediate and serious consideration, and that measures be adopted for remedying the abuses herein indicated, which are of a nature to obstruct the good government and endanger the welfare of the Lebanon.

No. 71.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 277.)
Therapia, August 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a very interesting despatch addressed to Major Trotter by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van respecting the views, policy, and intrigues of the Kurdish Sheikh Obeydullah, and the position of the Nestorian Christians in Kurdistan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter.

(Confidential.)
Bashkala, July 11, 1880.

Sir,

SINCE my arrival here Toussoun Pasha, the Mutessarif, has told me that some little time ago he sent an officer to Sheikh Obeydullah with the Firman of his decoration, and that, in conversation with the officer, the Sheikh said, "What is this I hear, that the Armenians are going to have an independent State in Van, and that the Nestorians are going to hoist the British flag and declare themselves British subjects. I will never permit it, even if I have to arm the women." At the same time, the Sheikh has sent to Mar Shimoun to urge him to join him against the Turkish Government, and has made the same request to the chief Armenian ecclesiastic here, saying he would protect the Christians. He has also made villages, even up to within four hours of Bashkala, promise to pay him taxes, and the Christians of Gevver have promised to give him 1,000 loads of corn per annum.

The Pasha also said that the Sheikh was going to send his son to Constantinople with the following proposal. He will point out the large sum paid to the Sultan by Beder Khan Bey, when semi-independent, and will offer to pay a still larger sum if his authority over Kurdistan is recognized, and his rule is not interfered with.

It seems perfectly clear that the Sheikh, and probably other Kurds, will be bitterly hostile to any exceptional privileges being granted to Armenians or Nestorians. At the same time, the Sheikh desires to make himself virtual Prince of Kurdistan, and would like to get the Nestorians and Armenians to help him against the Turkish Government, and

also to confirm his authority among the Kurds, which is by no means secure, two strong Ashirets, the Diré under Jelaugir Agha and the Pinyanish being against him, and his own eldest son being at feud with him and now in Persian territory. Moreover, though other Kurds might be with him for a time, yet if he experienced a reverse, or, if successful, tried to establish strict authority over them, they would fall away.

At the same time, Assim Bey, the Adelié Mufiettish of Van, and the Sheikhs here say that Obeydullah has no evil intentions against the Government. But I do not put much faith in Assim Bey, and the Sheikhs are probably tools of Obeydullah.

On the whole, it seems unquestionable that autonomy or representative government would be at present totally out of place in these parts, and what is required is a strong executive in the hands of a capable man possessing the confidence of Europe. But I feel sure also that he will require to be assisted by European subordinates to some extent.

I do not think that any immediate outbreak is to be expected; the famine will be a great obstacle to it; but I hope in my further journeys through Gevver and the Nestorian country to be able to obtain still clearer information as to the true state of affairs, and probably to see the Sheikh himself.

I may perhaps call attention to the fact, that from the intimate connection that exists in these countries between the religious and political elements, the recent negotiations that have been going on between the Nestorian and English Churches have led to a wide-spread belief, both among the Nestorians themselves and the other races, that the Nestorians are in some special manner entitled to the protection of England; in fact, that they are virtually British subjects, a belief which leads both to presumption on the part of the Nestorians and to an aggravation of the jealousy between the different religions and races, and of the mistrust with which England is regarded by the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 72.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 279.) *Therapia, August 23, 1880.*

My Lord,

MR. CONSUL BILIOTTI has forwarded to your Lordship a copy of his despatch to me No. 20 of the 28th ultimo with regard to the condition of the Laz emigrants in the district of Hapsamané.

I have thought it right to call the attention of the Porte to the state of these poor people, though I have but little hope that measures will be taken for their relief. I have the honour to inclose a copy of my note to Abédine Pasha on the subject, and of the memorandum which accompanied it.

As your Lordship will perceive from my despatch of this day on the Reports of Major Warlow, the whole question of the situation of immigrants in Asia Minor is occupying my earnest attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—I have not been able to finish my despatch above referred to in time for to-day's messenger. I propose to forward it to your Lordship by post on Friday next.

G. J. G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Embassy has the honour to inclose herewith a memorandum of the substance of a despatch which has been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, from which it would appear that the condition of the Lazes in the nahié of Hapsamané requires the immediate attention of the Imperial Ottoman Government.

Her Majesty's Consul has suggested a certain course by which it would be possible to make provision for the Lazes. He says that until such time as the Lazes are able to maintain themselves, which it seems will not be for the next fourteen

months, rations should be distributed to them from the Government tithe stores. Mr. Biliotti states that these stores contain at present upwards of 6,000 kilés of Indian corn, and that there are as many kilés of arrears due by the inhabitants which will be collected on the gathering of the next crop in about six weeks, making a total of 18,000 kilés, tithes included.

Reckoning that the Lazes require 1 kilé per head per month, and deducting those who can provide for themselves (50 families, or 300 souls), Mr. Biliotti thinks that these 18,000 kilés will be sufficient to keep the immigrants for nine months, but that further provision must be made for the remaining five months, and that seed must also be given them for sowing their lands.

Whether or not the Sublime Porte may determine to act on some such plan as the above, Her Majesty's Embassy, in view of the state of things described by Mr. Biliotti, earnestly recommends the Sublime Porte to take prompt and vigorous measures for providing food for the Lazes, who, if left without the means of subsistence, will inevitably take to robbery, which must lead to serious disorders.

Therapia, August 18, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Memorandum.

NO provision appears to have been made by the Ottoman authorities for the Laz emigrants landed in July last at Ordoo, and transported to the nahié of Hapsamané, which had been chosen for their residence.

Two thousand two hundred and ninety-six of these emigrants, who are mostly perfectly destitute, having sold the little they had brought with them for maintenance on the road, are now quartered on the inhabitants of Hapsamané and Voloduk.

At Kara Khodja, Canton of Voloduk, and in the villages of Tsokoor, Seydich, and Bareddin, 120 Laz families are located, only 20 of whom could afford to support themselves; the rest are living at the expense of these villages, consisting in all of 140 houses. The remainder of the Lazes are scattered in the villages bordering on the road between Kara Khodja and Hapsamané, and are also maintained by the inhabitants, with the exception of about thirty families.

The authorities of this district, on the arrival of the immigrants, applied to the Porte for instructions, but have received none.

It is calculated that the Lazes will not be able to support themselves until after next harvest, that is to say, in fourteen months' time.

Good and extensive unreclaimed lands have been found for them from four to six hours distant from the Mudirlik of Hapsamané, where they can ultimately settle without interfering with their neighbours.

Therapia, August 12, 1880.

No. 73.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 281.) *Therapia, August 24, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE been furnished with the inclosed copies of two financial documents, the history of which is not without interest.

Your Lordship is aware that the six so-called indirect contributions are pledged to a syndicate of bankers, under a Convention concluded in November last, between the Turkish Government on the one hand, and the Ottoman Bank and other banks on the other. The collection of these revenues is managed by a special Administration, of which Mr. Lang is the Director-General.

A few weeks ago a communication was made to this "Administration des Contributions Indirectes," of which your Lordship will find the text in Inclosure No. 1. It states that "in the general scheme of reforms, the execution of which as regards Anatolia has been recognized as necessary, and the early application of which has been decreed by Imperial Irade," a decision has been included, according to which 10 per cent. of the general revenue of the province, except the revenue from the customs, salt and tobacco, &c., will, after the deduction of the cost of administration of the province, be applied to certain public local improvements.

The Administration of the indirect taxes is informed accordingly.

Your Lordship will perceive that the effect of this arrangement will be, if carried out, that 10 per cent. of the indirect taxes other than the customs, salt and tobacco revenues, would be diverted from the purpose to which they are pledged, and spent in improvements. The amount would not be very large, but the point of interest is this, that the first reform taken in hand in Asia Minor, and settled now in advance of all other promised measures, is an arrangement for securing a certain amount of revenue which is now pledged for the payment of debt.

I have been confidentially informed that a protest has been made, but that the Minister of Finance replied that a protest was unnecessary, as it was doubtful whether effect would be given to the arrangement after all. The double incident—the decision as to a reform which would secure for public purposes money now used for the payment of debt, and the acknowledgment that after all this measure was not meant seriously, seems to me highly characteristic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

The Minister of Finance to the Administration of Indirect Taxes.

(Traduction.) *Ministère des Finances, le* 18 *Chaban*, 1297, *et* 14 *Juillet*, 1296.

A l'Administration Générale des six Contributions Indirectes,

DANS l'ensemble des réformes, dont la mise à exécution en ce qui concerne l'Anatolie a été reconnue nécessaire et dont l'application prochaine a été décrétée par un Iradé Impérial, figure une décision suivant laquelle 10 pour cent des revenus généraux de tous les vilayets à l'exception de ceux des douanes, du sel, du tabac, et des vacoufs administrés par les Conseils nationaux, et après déduction de toutes les dépenses faites pour les divers embranchements de l'Administration Locale, devront être laissés, à partir de l'année prochaine, au profit des Caisses provinciales à l'effet de servir aux besoins de l'instruction et des travaux publics de chaque vilayet, tout en réservant pour l'avenir d'augmenter cette affectation en cas d'accroissement des revenus de l'Etat.

Un tezkéré-Sanié, portant la date de 1er Juillet, 1296, a informé de cette décision tous les vilayets de l'Anatolie et de l'Arabie, de même que les Mutessarifats administrés d'une manière particulière. Le Ministère des Finances, qui en a également reçu communication, transmet ci-inclus copie du même tezkéré pour l'information de votre Administration.

(Signé) SUBHIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Enlirnamié Sami of 6 *Chaban*, 1297, *and July* 1, 1296.

(Traduction.)

DANS l'ensemble des réformes dont la mise à exécution en ce qui concerne l'Anatolie a été reconnue nécessaire et dont l'application prochaine a été décrétée par un Iradé Impérial, il est ordonné de retenir, à partir de l'année prochaine, au profit des Caisses provinciales, 10 pour cent des revenus généraux de tous les vilayets, à l'exception de ceux des douanes, du sel, du tabac, et des vacoufs qui sont administrés par les Conseils nationaux, et après déduction de toutes les dépenses faites pour les divers embranchements de l'Administration Locale. Cette affectation qui sera augmentée à mesure que les revenus de l'Etat auront accrus, est destinée à favoriser l'instruction générale et les travaux d'utilité publique, seuls moyens pour assurer le bonheur et la prospérité des sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

En établissant le budget de l'année prochaine, les vilayets doivent tenir compte de la retenue dont il est question, et, comme il est nécessaire de prendre un certain nombre de mesures en vue d'arrêter le mode suivant lequel l'argent qui en proviendra doit être employé, ils doivent avoir soin de décider où et comment cet argent devra être dépensé, et ils transmettront à la Sublime Porte une liste qui comprenne les destinations qui lui seront données.

No. 74.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Uniah, August 15, 1880.

My Lord,

THE district of Uniah, through which I travelled from south to north, is like that of Ordou, a succession of partly well-wooded steep hills and deep ravines, with little level arable land. The average yield of the soil is fifteen to one.

Uniah contains ninety-two villages, and 11,007 Mussulmans, 1,684 Greeks, 1,634 Armenians, 14,325 noufous (males), giving in round numbers a total of 30,000 souls.

The first Armenian settlers came here from the district of Ordou ninety years since, and were followed in later years by others from the same quarter. Greeks immigrated from Gumushané, and about 200 Mussulman families from the district of Niksar, most of the last of whom still continue to be Keutébés.

A few Christians are land-owners, and there are Beys and Aghas holding extensive estates, but who do not exact compulsory labour from their tenants. The conditions of rent are the same as those in the district of Fatza. The dwellings of the Keutébés, though of the same style as those at Ordou, are built with more care.

Eight Greek families, and as many Armenian, departed this year for Russia; about twenty others came in the town for embarkation and were sent back to their villages. If the movement of emigration had not been checked it is likely that one-half the Christian population of the villages would have removed to Russia, and my impression is that this number will emigrate whenever they find an opportunity for so doing.

There are several motives which induce them to expatriate themselves.

As the Christian population increases, the lands which they cultivate as owners or tenants become inadequate for their wants; there are fallow lands, but there is no inducement for them to till them.

Those which they bring under cultivation, even some that have been in their absolute possession for a number of years, are wrested from them by native presumptive owners of influence, or sold to them by Government officials at a much higher price than that at which they could have obtained them from the former. In some cases they are unable to obtain title-deeds for lands purchased and paid for by them. It would seem that the purchase-money appearing on the "tapoos" delivered to them is always inferior to the sums actually paid, from which it may be inferred that the difference goes to the profit of Government officials.

One or two Armenians out of some who some years since emigrated to Russia from this district, now being in a relatively prosperous condition, their success awakes in their countrymen here the hope that the same good luck will befall them.

This idea is strengthened by encouragement from without. However, an Armenian named Patchadji Pablivan, who was sent by the inhabitants of some Armenian villages to see whether Batoum was a convenient place of settlement, told me that his report was unfavourable; their present intention is to rather obtain lands in Circassia or Abazia.

According to the statement of Christians here, the families that emigrated this year to Russia, besides receiving lands and 130 roubles each, were promised exemption from the military service, and from taxation for 7, 14, even 21 years, if they were not successful in their agricultural pursuits, the condition of which, they say, is to be inquired into at the end of each septennial term.

I met in this district a native Armenian priest sporting for signature, from village to village in the districts of Fatza, Uniah, Therme, and Tsharchembe, a petition written in French, and addressed to the Grand Duke Michael, begging in the name of Christianity to be allowed to settle in Russia. It was after much hesitation that this document, which was not dated, was shown to me.

The signatures affixed to it represented 212 families, and I was told that another petition of the same description bearing 300 signatures was sent within the last few months through the Russian Consul at Samsoun to the Governor of the Caucasus, but that no answer had been received.

Amongst other grievances mentioned in this document, particular stress is put on their wives and daughters being carried off by Mussulmans. However, in the three districts that I have already visited, though I made special inquiries, only one case was brought to my notice, that of an Armenian girl of the village of Kayaman in this district, who in April last was ravished by Turks, detained during five days, and subsequently handed by them to the Mufti under the pretext that she wished to embrace Islamism. On

the Armenians claiming her she was returned to her parents, but I must say that the ravishers have not been punished, as are not those who carry off Mussulman women, which last are cases of very frequent occurrence amongst them.

In my humble opinion the real great grievance of Christians, as well as of Mussulmans, are the vexations and extortions to which they are subjected on the part of natives, whether Beys, Aghas, or others, holding Government appointments, and on that of their relatives or friends, a small minority it is true, but who have the power in their hands, and who, by intrigues and bribes, manage to get rid of such Governors as by exception may happen to be conscientious men.

According to public opinion, such seems to be the case at this moment at Uniah, though the Mutessarif of Samsoun, who is here, does not share this opinion. Mussulmans and Christians in the villages and in the town speak in the highest terms of Hafouz Ahmed Bey, who has been Kaimakam here since six months, and lately has been suspended from his functions in consequence of a question between the tithe collectors and the peasants.

As he considers that the latter are in the right, he is accused to incite them to refuse to pay the arrears which they owe to the Government.

The case is as follows:—

A balance of 47,724 piastres is claimed on the tithe of the year 1292 (1876), part of which the peasants seem to have paid, but for which no receipts were delivered to them. An independent and respectable Greek of this town cited to me the cases of the Armenian and Mussulman Moukhtars of the village of Noureddin, who in his presence respectively paid on account of that year's tithe 800 and 500 piastres, which sums were claimed by, and paid over again to, the local Mudir, Ali Effendi.

A Commission has just been appointed to investigate the case, but the chances are that Rahim Effendi, the tithe collector, Haïri Effendi, his clerk, as well as other parties implicated in the affair, will attain their ends, it being impossible that the real state of things should be exposed by Commissioners who have more or less interest to push up the affair. I must say, however, that in the present instance the Mutessarif of Samsoun has taken the precaution to bring with him from that town a few men to sit together with native Commissioners.

But even well-disposed Pashas, who, without travelling over the districts under their jurisdiction, depend for their information on interested parties by whom they are surrounded in the town, cannot know the truth. An example:—

The Mutessarif of Samsoun, Reshid Pasha, to whom I explained at length the condition of the districts which I just visited, would not admit that lands belonging to soldiers and to orphans were given over to Lazes.

I furnished him with a list of thirty cases from the villages of Fatza and Uniah, and those into which he has hitherto inquired bear out the correctness of my assertion.

It would seem that not only did Hafouz Bey, the Kaimakam of Uniah, admit the right of the peasants in the question of the year 1292, as well as on part of arrears due for other years, but he also insisted since his arrival here on the collectors receiving the arrears of the tithe consigned in kind in conformity with the regulations. Hitherto, agricultural produces were so measured by the collectors that a surplus of 10 per cent. on the tithe, representing a yearly unlawful profit of about 500*l.*, was exacted by them from peasants.

I do not want to trouble your Lordship with examples of other extortions, of which those cited in my Report on Fatza may serve as an illustration. The only thing that was not done here was to get money for not locating Lazes on lands held in force of "tapoos." But while extensive estates belonging to Beys and Aghas were spared, the small landed property of orphans and soldiers was given over to immigrants. And while the lands of men now under the standard were thus disposed of, they were writing to their fathers to sell some of their property, and send them money to buy bread with, as they were suffering of hunger in the army. I can cite the names of two, Hatipoglou Ali of Kouroueli, and Kiagkoglou Mehmed Ben Ali, of Noureddin, and they are not the only ones in this position. Their fathers, in order to comply with the earnest request of their sons, had to sell their plough oxen.

Thieves and other miscreants are not punished. Anything that can be obtained by bribery is now obtained from the present members of the Administration.

The only measure that, under these circumstances, might procure some relief would be to eliminate from the service in these districts all native officials, such as the Mal Mudiri, &c., who can be replaced by functionaries from other provinces, and to re-elect new members in the room of those whose posts must be held by natives, the present Greek Delegate at Uniah included.

I have already stated that the Laz immigrants, who number 220 families, had received lands belonging to individuals who held them in force of title-deeds. But not content with this grant and that of forest lands, they themselves took possession of other fields of the peasants, abandoning the forests in which natives had taken the trouble to erect, or paid for the erection of, eighty cabins for their use. Still, they complain that the lands which they now hold are insufficient for their wants, and consider very hard that natives should not furnish them with more. They scorn the idea of tilling themselves fallow lands.

Peasants were not only deprived of their fields, but they also had to plough and sow them for the benefit of the immigrants.

The latter are now located in fifteen villages, and refuse to be distributed in the ninety-two villages comprised in the district, an arrangement which would more equitably apportion the burden of providing them with lands, and which would at the same time, by dividing them, render them powerless.

As it is they are the masters of the country, the Local Government not having sufficient police forces to keep them in check. They give orders which peasants are compelled to obey. A few days before my passage through the Mussulman village of Kooltoudja, they intimated to the inhabitants that they were to convey to them wood from the forest, or give them 2½ bushels of Indian corn per native family.

They granted them a week to decide which of the two proposals they preferred to accept. If things be allowed to continue at this pace, natives will soon find themselves in the position of slaves.

Christians not being land-owners suffer but little from all these vexations, which fall especially on the Mussulman population; but a great feeling of jealousy, which is not foreign to their intention to emigrate, is excited amongst the former by the Lazes being provided with lands, while they have themselves been unable to obtain any after many years of toilsome residence in the district.

A fortnight since four Lazes and three Mussulmans, natives of the surrounding districts, after having spent three days in revel in the Mussulman village of Melitadagh, attempted to carry off a woman. A regular fight took place during three hours between the ravishers and the inhabitants, two of whom were shot dead and one severely wounded. The woman was rescued, but the Lazes and their companions succeeded to secure two horses and some plunder. The gendarmes were sent to chase them, but naturally were unable to apprehend them.

At about the same time a Mussulman girl, about 16 years old, of the village of Icheri Bokin, was carried off at night from under the paternal roof by two Lazes, one Mussulman, and one Armenian, both from Tsarchumbah. Three zaptiehs and a few Circassians having been sent after them, they met the band, and in the fight which ensued the girl was killed and the Armenian badly wounded; one of the zaptiehs and one of the Circassians were likewise wounded, the latter severely. The Armenian was captured, but his three accomplices escaped, and since have not been heard of.

The police force in this district consists of fifteen zaptiehs and seven gendarmes.

I may mention here that having been informed that after the first dressing of his wound the Armenian in question was in prison since three days without medical attendance, I spoke on the subject to the Mutessarif of Samsoun, who immediately ordered his being placed in a convenient room, and called an Armenian surgeon to attend on him.

Reshid Pasha thanked me for the information, and begged me to communicate to him any other cases requiring redress which might come to my knowledge.

I particularly called his attention to cases wherein quiet inhabitants had been brutally treated by the police in collecting the taxation.

In concluding my Report I beg to point out the confusion which seems to have always prevailed in the administration of this province, and of which the 'Temetuah is a striking example. This tax, which is still exacted at Ordou, has been abolished three years since at Fatze, and has never been levied here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—I beg to correct an error which has crept into my despatch No. 28 of the 1st instant with respect to the position of tenants ("keutchés"). Landlords cannot evict them.

A. B.

No. 75.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 27. Political.) *Uniah, August 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople having asked for further details on some of the cases alluded to in my despatch No. 18 on financial and other matters, I have the honour to transcribe hereafter, for your Lordship's information, my answer to his Excellency.

"Having obtained the information transmitted in my despatch No. 25 with regard to the sums paid to Osman and Dervish Pashas (to the latter in cereals) from a person who is so placed as to be well informed, I inquired from Sirri Pasha, who fully confirmed the statement made to me. But there was a divergence of opinion as to the identity of Noureddin Bey, or Effendi, if I remember the name right, who received 5,000*l*. According to my informant, he was the chief eunuch, but Sirri Pasha thought that the payment concerned one of the Imperial Princes.

"The military commander alluded to at the end of my despatch is no other than Dervish Pasha, who departed from Trebizond in one of the Sultan's yachts about a year since.

"I reported on several occasions, during and after the war, on the subject of frauds which were laid to the charge of this commander, and more particularly in a despatch dated the end of May or beginning of June 1879, wherein I stated that, up to that date, embezzlements to the amount of 500,000 piastres had been proved. The same above-mentioned party had given me the first information, which was confirmed to me by Yussuf Pasha, the then Governor-General, and later on by Sirri Pasha. Besides, the corrupt practices of Dervish Pasha are of public notoriety amongst all Turkish officials. I remember the indignation of Yussuf Pasha on receiving orders from the Porte to renew the contract for victualling the troops under the command of Dervish Pasha, then at Erzinghian, with the same Armenian who was his accomplice at Batoum.

"The civil functionary of whom I speak in the same place is Ismaïl Hakki Pasha, who was Mutessarif at Samsoun, and six months since is Vali at Sivas. His case was reported to me both by Yussuf and Sirri Pashas."

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 76.

Vice-Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 11. Political. Confidential.) *Damascus, August 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the departure of Midhat Pasha and the arrival of Hamdy Pasha as Governor-General of Syria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.) *Damascus, August 16, 1880.*

Sir,

REFERRING to my preceding despatch, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that Hussein Fevzi Pasha, Mushir, and late Aide-de-camp of the Sultan, arrived suddenly in Damascus from Constantinople on the 1st instant, and at once took over charge, by Imperial Decree, of the civil administration of the vilayet, as well as the duties of Commander-in-chief of the 5th Corps d'Armée, whose head-quarters are here. On the 3rd instant a telegram was received from the Porte, stating that Hamdy Pasha was appointed Vali of Syria, and a day later another came appointing Midhat Pasha Vali of Smyrna in Hamdy Pasha's place.

Both Achmet Eyoub Pasha, the late Mushir, and Midhat Pasha have quitted Damascus for Beyrout, the former to embark for Constantinople, the latter for Smyrna, by the same express boat bringing Hamdy Pasha to Syria, and which arrived on the 9th instant.

From all I can gather it seems very clear that those sudden and unexpected changes have been caused by the fright of the Porte at the uncompromising attitude of Midhat Pasha in persisting in resigning unless fuller powers were given him, and in approving and supporting, tacitly at least, the recent effervescence and hostility lately forcibly shown against Turkish maladministration by recent inflammatory placards and undisguised speech.

Midhat Pasha's recall is viewed with satisfaction by the mass of the population, especially Mahommedans, who ever declined to believe that his demands for powers were purely disinterested, and ascribed them more to, if not a leaning towards, Utopian ideas, a love of rule and a dislike to control, a belief supported by his openly expressed contempt for Ministers, their antecedents and qualifications, and for all measures and decrees emanating from Constantinople.

What has, perhaps, tended more than anything else to make his Highness unpopular was the very indiscreet conduct of his confidential *entourage*, which in every society and class throughout Syria openly advocated extreme measures at Constantinople, thwarted local prejudices on every occasion, and excited by its arrogance, and by the assumption of duties and powers which it only possessed by the *laisser-aller* system of its chief, the illwill and dislike of all classes of the population, and naturally tended to the increase of distrust and suspicion to the prejudice of the head of the Government.

His Highness thus leaves Syria, after twenty months sojourn, without (like his predecessors) leaving any mark on the administration, the practical details of which he seemed to ignore and sum when pressed upon his notice.

Having been in constant intercourse with his Highness, I may be permitted to enumerate the leading characteristics which, in my humble opinion, have marked his actions during his stay in Syria. They were shortly, dislike to foreign influence in any shape, impatience of control and disinclination to listen to any advice or suggestion in opposition to his own preconceived ideas, no matter how unobtrusively and disinterestedly put forward; great inconsistency, lack of perseverance in carrying out measures advocating the application of the system of self-government for the people, while frankly acknowledging their non-preparation for such, and preaching the necessity of a strong and all-powerful paternal guiding hand; disinclination to punish the shortcomings of his own nominees, and a too ready inclination to seem to profit by and to make capital generally out of European principles and presumed prejudices.

His Highness' great fault has been his declining to avail himself of the powers he possessed (and which have been undoubtedly increased since his first arrival), if not to make great reforms, at least to inaugurate and complete such with reference to some particular or minor department. But his cry has now long been full powers or none at all. The concession to him of the powers he demanded would doubtless have worked a radical change in the country—to its temporary good in many instances; but his rule would have been exposed, it seems to me, to the disadvantages of being essentially a personal one, held together solely by the strong individuality of the head, and, owing to the impossibility which all past experience teaches of procuring Turkish officials honest enough to properly control their various departments, and capable of understanding and carrying out the details of their duties, certain to fall to pieces and revert to its former state the moment the pressure was withdrawn.

Midhat Pasha's action with regard to the sales of the tithes in breaking up, for the time being, the old rings of private speculators and interested officials, has been most efficacious for the Treasury, while his well-known character and determination in matters of public tranquillity has been, as I have before reported, all-sufficient in itself.

Many dishonest officials have been, besides, dismissed by him, but such action has been but a drop in the ocean; has been exercised spasmodically and upon no system, and has lately ceased altogether.

I have reason to believe that his Highness' policy at Smyrna will be the same as here, to do nothing pending the receipt of fuller powers. Such policy of inactivity, however, does not, I presume, relate to public tranquillity, upon the preservation of which his Highness prides himself, and he may therefore be expected to wage efficacious war upon evil-doers both in the town and province of Smyrna.

Hamdy Pasha, the new Vali of Syria, governed this province a few years ago, but, like others, left no mark on the administration. Although above corruption, his rule was strongly tinctured with want of energy, and while doing his best according to his

lights, and trying in a half-hearted manner to redress the grievances of those who could make themselves heard, he simply kept the country going, aroused the hostility of no party by want of urbanity, showed no force of character in administrative details, and finally resigned and left Syria on the grounds of ill-health.

I am credibly informed that it is the intention of the Porte to garrison Syria exclusively in future with Turkish troops, drafting local levies to Turkey.

The practice hitherto of allowing native Syrian troops to garrison Syria, as well as that of giving a large share in the local administration of the country to natives, was the result of the policy of the Porte, inaugurated in 1869 under the auspices of Raschid Pasha, then Vali, with the view of attracting the sympathy of the population.

His Highness Hamdy Pasha arrived in Damascus on the 14th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 77.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 289.) *Therapia, August 27, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 255 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Lieutenant Chermside with regard to the charges against Mehemet Ali, of Siwas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 12.) *Siwas, August 5, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge, since the departure of the last post, a telegram from your Excellency, of date 21st July, enjoining me to forward, if possible, some strong case against Mehemet Ali, and details as to the outrage committed by him, recorded in my despatch No. 9 of the 3rd July. I was at Kaisarieh, and dispatched a telegram in Turkish to your Excellency to this effect: "I have no information as to whether the Moslem assaulted has brought an action or not; it seems probable that he has accepted compensation. I will proceed to the village and inform myself."

As regards the first part of the telegram, I regret that I am unable to furnish such a case as your Excellency requires, and, indeed, my information concerning Mehemet Ali rests almost completely on hearsay. The advent of Abédine Pasha and Colonel Wilson, the presence for some time of Baker Pasha's mission, and the well-known hostility of the Consulate, together with the growing audacity and expression of feeling against him among the Armenians, has naturally induced so shrewd a man to avoid for the time any proceedings likely to bring matters to a crisis. His influence is undoubtedly very great and widespread, and many Moslems, and even those apparently fairly upright themselves, and others, speak highly of him, as they always will of men in power.

The despatches of Colonel Wilson, Consul-General, No. 15 of the 19th August, 1879, and No. 41 of the 19th October, 1879, must have fully informed your Excellency of the state of affairs, and I can only regret that I cannot supplement them with any details.

Hakki Pasha, the Vali, when spoken to by Baker Pasha and Captain Stewart, replied much as did Abédine Pasha to the Bishop's petition, that he could do nothing on mere vague general assertions.

Hakki Pasha lives in the house of Mehemet Ali's son-in-law, as did Abédine Pasha, in both cases, it is asserted, perhaps libellously, rent free.

In Hakki Pasha's case, the affair of the Amasia elections, this late outrage, and many little incidents, afford strong presumptive evidence that he is protecting Mehemet Ali indirectly, if not directly.

As regards the absence of definite accusation against the man, the causes are, I imagine, several:—

1. The difficulty of proof, as the traditional malpractices of bribery and undue influence have from time immemorial been an institution among Orientals, and as great

cunning and adroitness is shown in the employment of intermediaries, and the avoidal of compromising evidence.

2. The fear of coming forward owing to terrorism and the dread of reprisals. This has been fully exemplified in the case of the Chiefs and Beys imprisoned here by Abédine Pasha, seven out of eight of whom have now been released for want of accusers, and I now hear that there is a talk of the notorious robber and reputed murderer Tek Tashak being released for the same reason. (Consul-General, No. 1 of the 1st January, 1880; Vice-Consul Gatheral, No. 51 of the 27th September, 1879; and Captain Cooper, No. 2 of the 13th September, 1879.)

3. The existing law on the subject of bribery, Penal Code, Book I, "Crimes against Public," Chapter III, Articles 67-81. Turks are in the habit of vaunting this law, and pointing out how severe are the measures against it, and of indicating with pride that the giver of the bribe is equally liable to punishment with the receiver, Articles 68-70. I have no technical legal knowledge, and it is therefore with some diffidence that I would venture to remark that the clause concerning the giving of bribes seems radically bad in practice. It protects the existing system, and succeeds completely in preventing evidence concerning the administration of bribes being brought forward.

As regards the second part of the telegram, I append a copy of the petition addressed by the plaintiff to the Consular Representative. The man was brought before the Idaré Medjliss, or Administrative Council, and both sides were heard. The matter was arranged by this body in conformity to Article 179 of the Penal Code. Article 179 in the French translation of Turkish law, titled "Législation Ottomane," runs thus: "Lorsque les blessures ou les coups n'auront pas le degré de gravité mentionné en l'Article précédent, le coupable sera puni d'un emprisonnement d'une semaine à un an, ou condamné au paiement en faveur du blessé d'une indemnité d'un à cinq Medjidiés (liras) d'or; ces deux peines pourront être simultanément prononcées."

The award of 2 liras was therefore in accordance with this Article, the man has pronounced himself satisfied, and the matter has been settled, as he has commissioned the Council to reply to any order from the Porte, evoked by a telegram that he sent, by stating that he has accepted compensation and is satisfied.

I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency the translation of an article in the "Siwas" newspaper, and a copy of the original. This paper is an organ of the Vali's, and its articles cannot be considered independent; as your Excellency will see, the paper places itself in the position of judge and criticizes the case, making the most in every way of the provocation given, and palliating the offence as far as possible. The facts, however, are clearly established. An assault was committed, and a violent one; I myself saw the man with his head cut open. It was committed by a Government functionary in the Conak, while present for the discharge of his duties; it could not be denied or evaded, and compensation was awarded to the plaintiff. The question of abuse, by which the man was more incensed than by the assault, does not seem to have been brought forward. By Article 214 of the Penal Code, a person found guilty of such is liable to a period of imprisonment from one to thirty days, or a fine from £T. ½ to £T 3. The reason, I gather, that the matter was taken before the Idaré Tribunal, is that Mehemet Ali, as late member of the "Istinaff," or as Refugee Commissioner, is considered as a Government official. In the Législation Ottomane, section 3, "Justice," division 1, Chapter I, Article 14, it is stated that the Idaré Medjliss has no judicial functions. This is not quite correct, as officials, Kaïmakams, &c., arraigned on charges of maladministration, peculation, &c., are judged by it.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 2nd August, and replied yesterday as follows:—

"Governor-General has received orders to cancel nomination of Mehemet Ali and three others. The outrage case was settled in Council, legally, I opine, and Mehemet (Ali) fined 2*l.* for assault. Plaintiff satisfied. Commendable activity concerning refugees during past month."

Since writing the above, I find that neither in the "Code" nor in the new Supplementary Regulations are there any privileged exceptions as to which Tribunals accused individuals in similar cases are amenable, and that neither official employment or "rutbé," *i.e.*, rank in the civil hierarchy, exempt individuals of whatever status. Article 177, to which 179 is the relevant sequel, uses the word "quiconque." There is no Turkish copy in the Consulate, but the translation is trustworthy. The legal course should have been: The plaintiff should have applied to the Mudaï Oumoumi, the Public Prosecutor, (or his accredited representative), the latter should have referred it to the Monstantik or Juge d'Instruction, who should have cross-examined the plaintiff and heard his witnesses. The case should be then referred to the criminal section of the Bidâiyet Court ("Djeza

Mahkemési"), whence a summons should have been issued to the accused to appear before the Court and be interrogated by the Juge d'Instruction. Plaintiff and defendant should then be sent, together with the *procès-verbal* ("istintak"), to the Heyiet Ittihamiyé (the Council for precising the nature and degree of offence, whose attributions combine somewhat those of ordinary and grand juries); the case should thence go back to the Bedayet, where the definite sentence is decided on and communicated to both parties. The course followed, therefore, appears to be quite illegal, and was adopted by the Vali, I am assured, on his responsibility and without consultation with the members of the Medjliss. The affair appears to me to have been a private compromise, but to have been conducted by the highest official in the province, assisted by the members of its highest Council; the terms "verdict," "case," and "legality," mentioned in the officially inspired newspaper, invest it with a semblance of formal legality, to which I believe it to be in no way entitled. The Vali will doubtless, if questioned by the Porte, reply that it was merely an amicable arrangement to obviate legal proceedings, in which he consented to act as mediator. The plaintiff, an ignorant peasant, however, in no way regarded it as such, and as the compensation was according to the scale prescribed by law, professed himself satisfied. Your Excellency will, perhaps, conclude from the above that there is very little doubt as to the Vali's protection of Mehemet Ali, and may deem it well to bring the matter to the notice of the Porte. I would respectfully point out that my statements as to the legal procedure and points of law are very possibly erroneous, and that they require confirmation before your Excellency accepts them. As regards the news telegraphed to me by your Excellency concerning the elections, I am assured here that if a considerable blow is once dealt to Mehemet Ali's influence and prestige, accusers will come forward. I cannot say that I am very sanguine, as the people are very apathetic and unwilling to do anything for themselves. By Article 77 of the Penal Code (Bribery Law), an individual who, to save life, goods, property, honour, or his legitimate interests, finds himself obliged to give a bribe, shall, on denunciation of the same, immediately after the removal of the cause of fear or restraint, receive compensation or satisfaction. This saving clause seems a dead letter naturally enough, as it is usually the authorities who are bribed; I think, however, it might possibly be resorted to in the present case with effect if the terrorism were once got over.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Petition presented to the Sivas Consulate-General by Mukhtar Ahmed, of the Village of Dourdourlou, against ill-treatment received at the hands of Mehemet Ali Effendi, of Sivas.

(Translation.)

YOUR humble petitioner declares that, when presenting a petition to Mehémet Ali Effendi, President of the Refugee Commission, not only did he not condescend to grant a hearing to my request, but rushing at me before all the company in the Commission room, beat me severely, blaspheming horribly and reviling me the meanwhile; he then dragged me out into the lobby, and dashing my head against the doorpost, cut open my temple, without ceasing to thrash and kick me, and finally kicked me head-over-heels down stairs.

I venture to consider this treatment as downright barbarity. Here is a man who, not content with refusing to hear a request perfectly in accordance with law, made by me, who belong to a nation that never resisted any proposal or claim made by the Imperial Government, a nation that has made and is at this making every sacrifice for the good of the State, sparing neither life nor property in its cause—but must needs treat me in a way that neither law nor justice admits of. Seeing that the majority of persons who happened at the time to be present in the adjoining rooms, both Mussulman and non-Mussulman, members of Conseil and men of property, witnessed the unseemly and insulting conduct of Mehemet Ali Effendi, I, your humble petitioner, beg and entreat you to grant my request, and to use every effort and to take the necessary steps to insure a thorough inquiry into the matter, as the law directs in such cases.

(Signed) MUSTAPHA, of the village of Dourdourlou.
(Also by the village Mukhtar, Ahmet, by Hassan, and by the Imaum.)

June 19, 1296 (o.s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 77.

Extract from the "Sivas" of June 23, 1880.

(Translation.)

IT is found proper to publish in our paper a verdict given last Thursday with regard to a case brought before the Idaré Conseil.

Because the sentenced man is Mehmed Ali Effendi, one of the representatives in the late Turkish Parliament, and a holder of a "ruthé" in the civil hierarchy, and a notable of the country.

Ahmed Kiahya, from Dortoulou, in the Ilbiklou Nahieh, having petitioned the Vali, Hákki Pasha, that the said Effendi, while executing his duties as President of the Refugee Commission, has beaten him, both sides are summoned to the Idaré Conseil, and their statements of the case are heard. The résumé of the case was that the Refugee Commission had previously decided to plant a colony of Kars emigrants on a waste land called "Kizil Viran," in the neighbourhood of the said village, and when, accordingly, measures were being taken to carry out that decision of the Commission in force, the said Ahmed Kiahya, in order to lay obstacles in the way of the most important question of refugee settlement, applies to the Commission, and claims the said waste land as his. In the Commission, although great efforts were made to persuade him that he had no claim whatever on the said land, they have produced no effect, and Ahmed would not listen to anything told him. Just then the said Mehmed Ali Effendi got up, and though he tried to get him out from the Commission, he (Ahmed) did not obey, and made stand, whereupon Mehmed Ali Effendi struck him at the back and turned him away. This Mehmed Ali Effendi confessed.

The case having been carefully considered in the Idaré Conseil of the vilayet, it was found out—from the statements of the plaintiff, Ahmed Kiahya, too—that the said waste land, on which Ahmed, with a view to lay obstacles in the way of the refugee settlement, made a claim, was really and simply a waste land, and that the natives have got other pasture lands besides this to feed their animals on. Consequently his claim was of no foundation, and so Ahmed was told.

The discussion having turned upon Mehmed Ali Effendi beating the said Ahmed, it is unanimously confessed that, under the patronage and justice of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, no person will ever be tolerated to treat any other person in contradiction to the laws, and supposing even that Mehmed Ali Effendi on seeing Ahmed to make such an unjust claim has, out of a strong rage, beaten him, nevertheless, because there is a punishment by law for such an act, it is in accordance with justice that Mehmed Ali Effendi should apply to the law and bear the punishment which, according to the 179th Article of the Penal Code, is a fine of 1 to 5 Turkish liras. Therefore, in conformity with this Article, the Idaré Conseil gave a verdict against Mehmed Ali Effendi to pay Ahmed, as fine, 2 liras. After this decision, both sides are summoned before the Conseil and the verdict communicated, to which they agreed, and accordingly Mehmed Ali Effendi paid Ahmed 2 liras.

The case having been thus settled, Ahmed declared, "I had telegraphed yesterday to the Sublime Porte on the subject, and when orders came from Constantinople you would write how it is settled, because there I have seen justice, and am going to my village."

Inclosure 4 in No. 77.

LÉGISLATION OTTOMANE.

Article 77 du Code Pénal.

CELUI qui, pour sauver sa vie, ses biens, son honneur, ses intérêts légitimes, en un mot, se trouvant véritablement forcé de donner une somme d'argent, dénoncera le fait de corruption à l'autorité, obtiendra la restitution de la valeur illégalement reçue de lui, et l'individu qui aura commis cet acte encourra les peines prononcées contre les personnes corrompues. Dans le cas où le fait viendrait par une autre voie à la connaissance de l'autorité, seront punis des peines prononcées contre les corrupteurs, ceux qui, victimes d'une pareille violence, ne l'auront pas dénoncée par pétition adressée en temps voulu, c'est-à-dire immédiatement après la cessation des motifs de contraint et la disparition de crainte personnelle, au Grand Vizir, s'ils se trouvent à Constantinople, ou au Gouverneur-Général, ou au Conseil Général s'ils sont en province.

No. 78.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 290.) *Therapia, August* 27, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 213 of the 15th July last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Colonel Wilson, containing his observations on the Porte's note of the 5th ultimo on the subject of reforms in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 54.) *Buyukdéré, August* 24, 1880.

Sir,

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Excellency's despatch of the 24th July last, I have the honour to submit some observations on the Porte's reply to that part of the identic note, recently addressed to it by the Great Powers, which related to Armenia, and upon the comparative statement of the population in Armenia which has been drawn up by the Armenian Patriarch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

Observations by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson on the Porte's Statement respecting Armenia.

THE note of the Porte on the subject of reforms in Armenia draws attention to what has already been done, and refers to measures which it is proposed to introduce.

Under the first category are cited the dispatch of various Commissions to the provinces; the separation of the Nizam Courts from the Executive; experiments with a view of introducing a new system of collecting the taxes and tithes; and the steps which have been taken to raise a gendarmerie and police force in certain localities.

It is now eighteen months since the Commissions were sent to the provinces, and no results that I am aware of have followed from their labours. They had no executive powers, and the history of their failure and of the manner in which the Commissioners were thwarted by the Porte and the local authorities will be found in the despatches of Major Trotter, Lieutenant Chermside, and Mr. Henderson.

The separation of the Nizam Courts from the Executive, though right in principle, was decided upon too soon, and any good which might have followed the act was more than counterbalanced by the manner in which it was carried out. Men ignorant of law were appointed to important positions on high salaries, and new rules were issued to the Courts which were quite unsuitable to the people.

The experiments with regard to the collection of tithes and taxes have as yet led to no result, and the success of the steps taken to raise a local gendarmerie is still uncertain.

The proposed measures, if they can be carried out, are in the right direction, but they do not go far enough, and several points require consideration.

The cazas are, or should be, already divided into nahiés; but the proposed organization of the latter is new, and a great advance on anything that has previously been suggested by the Porte. It is to be hoped that the village communes or cazas will not be interfered with, but that the nahiés may be formed of groups of cazas preserving their present rights. The note says that the Administrators (Mudirs) and the Councils of the nahiés will at first be nominated by the Administrative Councils of the cazas, and afterwards elected by the people; but it does not state when the first election will take place, nor whether the Mudirs and Councils will be elected directly or indirectly by the people.

The formation of a gendarmerie or rural police in each nahié is good in principle, but no details are given as to the mode of payment, armament, or selection of the gendarmes. Rural police in the hands of a Mudir indirectly elected by the people might become a serious instrument of oppression.

A proper provincial gendarmerie has often been promised before, and the note gives no guarantee that it will soon be organized.

The proposal to establish movable Courts of Assize is one that will commend itself to any one acquainted with Anatolia; but the success of the Courts will depend entirely on the way in which the Judge and his Assessors are appointed and paid, and on the powers given to them. On these vital points the note gives no information.

A promise is made to devote a portion of the provincial revenue to public works, instruction, and other local necessities. The proportion of the revenue set apart for these purposes is too small, and no guarantee is given that it will be properly applied by the local authorities. The general question of provincial finance, the system of overdrawing by Treasury bonds ("havalés") and the frauds committed by corrupt officials are unnoticed, and no provision is made for reform in this direction.

A new vilayet law is said to be under consideration; it is to be hoped that the promised reforms will not be delayed until it is promulgated. The old laws have not yet been put in force throughout the Empire.

The note does not touch upon several of the reforms which are most urgently needed, such as a better system of selecting the *personnel* for the provinces; tenure of office for five years pending good behaviour; decentralization; increased powers to the Governors-General; purification of the Law Courts; a new Civil Code; a new and fair land assessment; a real control of the provincial revenue by the Provincial Assembly; security of payment to officials; the conditions of the prisons.

Not having visited Armenia or Kurdistan, I am unable to judge of the correctness of the statistics as regards population which are given in the note and the Table supplied by the Armenian Patriarch. I think, however, that the number of Moslems is overestimated in the note and under-estimated in the Table. With reference to the latter, I may observe that in the Siwas Vilayet all the large Kizilbash population and the whole of the Arshaár tribe are omitted; that the number of the Circassians is fixed too low, and the number of Armenian Catholics over-estimated.

It is perhaps worth remarking that the Vilayet of Adana, which contains a large Armenian population and includes Sis, is never noticed in the Tables and other documents prepared by the Armenian Patriarch. The political and religious position of Sis, with regard to Constantinople and Elchmiadzin, has been several times alluded to by Lieutenant Chermside and Mr. Henderson.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Buyukdéré, August 23, 1880.

No. 79.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 22. Political.) *Erzeroum, August* 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter I addressed a few days ago to Lady Strangford, on the subject of famine relief, giving a short account of how the money intrusted to me has been disposed of.

2. I also inclose copy of a despatch I have recently addressed to Captain Everett on the same subject, which, with some modifications, I have also sent to Captain Clayton at Van.

3. Also a private letter (in original) from General Baker to myself, giving a short account of the expenditure of a small sum of money I had intrusted to him for distribution. With reference to its contents, I hope, before starting for Constantinople (to-morrow), to make arrangements for sending further relief to the Kurdish villages visited by General Baker.

I trust that the flour and grain now being distributed by the American missionaries in the Bayazid, Alashgerd, and Pasin districts will suffice to prevent further mortality.

A very few weeks, or even days, will now bring general relief wherever there has been a fair amount of grain sown; but in many parts of the above-mentioned districts the amount of grain sown is so small that (the people in many instances being absolutely penniless) I fear during the approaching year we may have even greater distress and mortality than during the past.

I received to-day, from Captain Clayton, most distressing accounts from Bashkala, dated the 10th July. He says:—"In the Caza of Bashkala alone there are ninety villages more or less destitute of present means of living, and without prospect of suffi-

cient harvest to enable them to sow and live through the ensuing year, &c. Some villages are totally deserted and waste, and most others have lost half their population by death or emigration."

In Mahmoodieh (Khoshab), affairs are as bad; but in all the other provinces prospects are better. Again:—"The amount of aid I am able to give now out of the funds sent from England, together with that provided by Government and the Armenian Committee, will only provide food for those requiring it for two or three days.

"The ultimate fate of the two worst districts is, I fear, likely to be most sad."

I have telegraphed to Captain Clayton, putting at his disposal 1,000*l.* of the funds now in hand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S.—I shall feel greatly obliged if your Lordship would kindly permit the note from General Baker to be sent, with my compliments, to Lady Strangford.

H. T.

Inclosure 1 in No. 79.

Major Trotter to Lady Strangford.

Erzeroum, July 23, 1880.

Dear Lady Strangford,

BY the last mail I wrote you a long letter on the subject of the famine, which I sent through Mr. Goschen, and which has, I trust, safely come to hand.

Since writing I have been looking into my accounts, and although I am not quite prepared at present to send you a balance-sheet, yet I can give you some idea as to how the money has been spent.

Until I get to Constantinople, for which place I leave in about a week's time, I cannot say what was the amount of remittances received in April. The telegrams I received on the subject were not clear, so that I am by no means sure within 100*l.* or 200*l.* I believe, however, that the account stands as follows:—

		£
Received in February		200
"	March (Compassionate Fund)	100
"	April	300
"	April (collected by my brother)	150
"	May	400
"	June	1,800
"	July	1,400
	Total	4,350

Besides this, I am told another 1,000*l.* credit was telegraphed to me at Van, but I have not yet seen the telegram. This will make a total of 5,350*l.*

Of this sum, rather more than 3,000*l.* has been spent, leaving the very considerable sum of nearly 2,500*l.* for further relief.

This sum I propose keeping in reserve for a while.

Captain Clayton at Van has a large quantity of grain in hand, which he is now distributing in Bashkala.

The American missionaries are also distributing relief in Bayazid, Alashgerd, and Pasin; and, as far as lies within accessible radius, the suffering population have been cared for up to harvest time.

The barley harvest is now being collected in the Erzeroum plain, which is about the same elevation as Pasin and Alashgerd; the wheat will be ripe in another fortnight: meanwhile there has been a great fall in prices. Within the last fortnight wheat has fallen here from 60 piastres to 38 piastres the gote (20 okes), but bread is still selling at 4 piastres the oke. As soon as the harvest is reaped and the price of grain at what will probably be a minimum, I propose buying a large stock of wheat, both at Van, Diarbekir, and Erzeroum, for distribution, partly as food during the approaching winter, partly as seed for the autumn sowings.

The means exist, owing to the much-abused system of tithes, of ascertaining the actual amount harvested in each village. I have myself seen one village chiftlik in Eastern Pasin where there is not a single grain of seed in the ground. In many others the sowing was only 3 gotes, i.e., 60 okes per family, the produce of which cannot possibly suffice for food for the year as well as furnish seed for sowing. Unless, therefore, help be given in many places, the famine next year will be as bad as or worse than

during the present year. Bearing this in mind, there can be no doubt that the best plan at present is to keep money in hand, and buy grain at the most favourable opportunity for future relief. This will not, of course, prevent us from relieving any very urgent cases that may be brought to notice.

With regard to expenditure hitherto, without entering into great detail, I find that up to the time of my leaving Diarbekir early in June I had spent £ T. 767. This includes two donations of 20*l.* to Armenian Committee; one to Turks of 25*l.*; to American missionaries for Mardin, 40*l.*; Redwan, 20*l.*; Midyad, 20*l.*; special for Syrian Jacobites, 2*l.* 10*s.* The remainder was spent in my own soup kitchens, where 1,200 perfectly destitute Kurds and Arabs were fed twice a-week all through the winter and spring, in providing materials for the Jacobite Syrian and the Chaldean kitchens, in smaller contributions to other sects, and in purchase of 20 quarters of wheat sent to Saert, and an equivalent amount to the missionaries for general distribution at Mardin, 4 quarters to Djezireh, 4 quarters to Deyrik; in every case for distribution to the most needy. I also spent some 50*l.* (about) in providing raft-hire and bread for refugees returning to their villages:—

		£ T. prs.
Expenditure up to the 4th June		767 51
Since leaving Diarbekir—		
Poor on road to Saert		2 09
Poor at Saert, distributed through a local Committee I formed there		101 00
At Bitlis—		
Town Committee	100 00	
Rev. Mr. Knapp, for distribution	50 00	
Miss Ely's soup kitchen	20 00	
Purchase at Bitlis of grain for Van	547 00	
At Van—		
Armenian Committee	100 00	
Moslem Committee	100 00	
Rev. Mr. Chambers, for distribution on road to Erzeroum	20 00	
Rev. Mr. Allen, for distribution on road to Kharput	20 00	
Captain Clayton, for poor Nestorians	50 00	
Distributed by myself—		
Bargiri	20 00	
Hinderauli country	20 00	
Alashgerd	55 00	
Pasin	35 00	
Distributed at Pasin through my Drogoman	64 00	
Distributed by Dr. Lanzoni at Bayazid	91 00	
Since arrival at Erzeroum—		
Grain for Bayazid and Pasin, per American missionaries	600 00	
Credit telegraphed to missionaries at Mardin	200 00	
Ditto to Mr. Barnham, Diarbekir	100 00	
Ditto to Miss Ely, Bitlis	50 00	
For Khanys, per Rev. — Chambers	24 00	
" per Baker Pasha		
Total	3,243 51	

With the exception of the 100*l.* given to the Town Committee at Bitlis through the Pasha, I am certain that all the above has been well spent. I am also rather proud to say that not a single sixpence has been paid for agency; all the help given has been voluntary and gratuitous. And now about the famine itself. Captain Clayton's last telegrams were dated "Bashkala, 7th July. Famine here still bad, but health improved, and I hope there will be general improvement." A few days later:—"The Malmoodieh and Bashkala famine prospects very bad. There will be scarcely any harvest; flocks and herds have mostly died; no provision for ensuing year; elsewhere relief will come with harvest."

Captain Clayton is now distributing the 547*l.* worth of grain (1,100 Van gotes) which I purchased from Bulanyk while at Bitlis, as also some grain which he had in store from former account. Before I leave Erzeroum I shall telegraph to place at his disposal 1,000*l.* of my surplus funds for purchase of grain, &c., for sowing.

In Captain Clayton's last letter, dated Van, 4th July, he says:—"I received your note from Ak-bulak two days ago, and sent off the corn; your note from Bargiri (two days north of Van) came to-day, and they are going to fetch their corn to-morrow morning. I have also arranged for a man to go and examine the district, and distribute a further supply as soon as our next slip comes in from the other side. I start myself to-morrow morning for Bashkala. I had intended to start yesterday, but received a telegram from the Embassy telling me to draw 200 liras, the part proceeds of a diplomatic concert, and to concoct, with the other Consuls, a plan for using it without distinction of race or creed. I therefore had to arrange a meeting with Kaussaragan and the Persian Consul, and we decided to give 50 liras to the Turkish Committee, 50 liras

to the Armenian Committee, and that I should take the remainder with me to Hakkiari. At the same time a telegram arrived putting 1,000*l.* more to your credit, but I sent back word that you had started from Erzeroum, so you will probably hear of it there."

Dr. Lanzoni returned here from Bayazid a few days ago. He came with me from Van to Alashgerd, and on leaving me for Bayazid I gave him 100 liras to distribute where most needed. This sum was nearly all distributed in Kurdish villages, where Dr. Lanzoni reports the suffering to be far greater than in the Armenian ones. Dr. Lanzoni estimates the deaths up to date in Bayazid and Alashgerd at 2,000, almost entirely Kurds. The Armenians have suffered much also, but they have received great help from their co-religionists, whereas there is no one to look after the Kurds.

Since Dr. Lanzoni's return, Rev. — Cole and Rev. W. Chambers, American missionaries, left this for Bayazid with the following means of relief: 600*l.* worth of flour, purchased at Erzeroum (with your money). This flour was sent on ahead of the missionaries, who are, I hope, busy distributing as I write. This consignment is for Bayazid, Dijadin, and Utch-kilissa, to be distributed to the most needy, irrespective of race or creed. Six hundred and eighty pounds' worth of wheat is also on its way to Alashgerd and Eastern Pasin—380*l.* for the former and 300*l.* for the latter—contribution from the Moslem Committee at Constantinople. This is also all consigned to the American missionaries for distribution, aided by a Sub-Committee. A further grant of 500*l.* came from the Moslem Committee a few days ago. This is being converted into corn to-day, and will leave for Alashgerd and Pasin in a day or two; so the Americans, who will be joined in a few days by Captain Everett, will have their hands full.

If all this relief had been sent off a few weeks earlier, it is possible several hundred lives would have been saved. *Bis dat qui cito dat* would have been a good motto for your Committee. The extreme pressure is now over, however, and the principal thing now is to look forward to the approaching winter.

I inclose a letter of the 13th July from Rev. Mr. Knapp, of Bitlis, just received, from which you see he speaks of three to six deaths daily. It was on receipt of this letter that I telegraphed a credit of 100*l.* to Miss Ely, which I am sure will be well spent.

The Kurds of whom Mr. Knapp writes are mostly refugees from the districts further east.

My last letter was so hurried that I had no time for a copy, and forgot up to what point on my journey to Erzeroum I brought down my narrative. Did I tell you of the Jemadanli Kurds in the Alashgerd plain, who had lost 150 of their number in three months? This tribe—refugees from the lately ceded districts near Kars—had 18,000 sheep last autumn, and are now reduced to 200. Unless the Turkish Government will do something for them by giving rations, they must—unless for what help I shall be able to afford them—inevitably nearly all die before another twelvemonth is over. I saw in one tent a man dying, with his two children, emaciated to the last degree, almost as far gone as the father. Many of the poor wretches have nothing left in the world. They have sold tents, carpets, felts—all for a little food, and they have now nothing left but to die. Harvest to them brings not relief, as they have no land to plough, and no cattle to plough with, even if they were given seed to sow. I fear, in Hakkiari district, there are many, many thousands in an almost similar condition, but we shall doubtless ere long have details from Captain Clayton.

I have given temporary relief (50*l.*) to these Kurds; but they had to buy grain in Alashgerd at double the prices prevailing here (they paid 16*l.* the somar), so that relief does not go far for 600 souls.

I shall do what I can when at Constantinople to induce the Turkish Government—who owe the tribe 3,000*l.* for supplies given to their army during the war—to do something to prevent these men dying from starvation.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

Major Trotter to Captain Everett.

Erzeroum, August 1, 1880.

Sir,

WHEN you receive this despatch you will probably be busily employed in distributing relief, assisted by American missionaries, in the famine districts.

The means available are (1) 600*l.* worth of flour from Lady Strangford's funds; (2) 680*l.* worth of grain from the Ottoman Committee at Constantinople, of which 380*l.* is for Alashgerd and the remainder for Pasin; (3) 500*l.* worth of grain (bought at the cheap rate of 30 piastres the gote) from the Ottoman Committee, which will, I hope, be started off in a day or two. In addition to this, I am informed that the Armenian Committee have within the last two weeks from various sources sent off 150 somars of wheat for the Armenians of Alashgerd and Pasin. I have, therefore, every reason to hope that sufficient provision has now been made to relieve immediate suffering wherever you may come across it, and that the rapidly approaching harvest will bring relief generally to nearly all the suffering districts.

I have been adjusting my accounts, and find that I have at present, including some very recent remittances, about 2,500*l.* available for further relief, and I have determined to place 1,000*l.* of this sum at your disposal for the famine districts of the Vilayet of Erzeroum.* Another 1,000*l.* I shall send to Captain Clayton at Van.

The price of wheat is now falling rapidly, and may be expected to continue falling for another month. Three weeks ago the wheat was at 58 piastres the gote, while yesterday it was selling as low as 30 piastres, in spite of the fact that none of this year's wheat is as yet in the market. You should watch the market carefully, and when the price of wheat is approaching a figure much below which experts do not think it will fall, I would then buy up grain to the full amount you think your funds will permit. Previous to this, however, I would wish you to place yourself in telegraphic communication with Her Majesty's Consul at Sivas and with Mr. Barnham at Kharput or Diarbekir, to ascertain the prices there current for new wheat, and the rates at which it could be carried to Erzeroum. You might find it better to import your grain from Kharput or Diarbekir than to purchase in the Erzeroum market.

You need have no fear of outrunning the constable, for, even if you exceed the sum allotted to you, you can always make good any deficiency by subsequently selling a small portion of the grain.

Simultaneously, or, if possible, before making those preparations, you should do your best to obtain from the local authorities lists of the actual produce of this year's tithes in the different villages of the famine districts. A comparison of those lists with those of an average year, and a comparison of the amounts with the number of families now residing in each village, ought, with your own local knowledge, to enable you to form a very fair estimate as to the probable amount and extent of suffering to be expected during the approaching winter months.

I would also suggest your making special personal inquiries, if possible, as to the present state and prospects of the various tribal Kurds scattered over the eastern portion of the vilayet. The Jemadanli—refugees from near Kars, whose survivors in the Alashgerd district now number about 600 souls—are, I know, in the most fearful state of destitution, and, unless special help be given them by the Government, will, I fear, mostly perish. I also understand that the Jelali tribe near Bayazid and the Zilanlis are also in a desperate condition, but you will probably get accurate knowledge on this subject during your present tour.

Bearing in mind the numbers that will have to be provided for, it will, I fear, be necessary to restrict assistance to those who have no other means of help, and the fearful question may even then have to be faced whether it is better to take in hand a certain number of persons, according to your means, whom you can undertake to keep alive for twelve months, and give a sufficiency of grain to sow this autumn to enable them, thus succoured, not only to live, but to grow a sufficiency of grain to enable them to subsist for the following twelvemonth; or whether it is better to divide equally the sum available amongst all the sufferers, with the power perhaps of keeping them alive for two or three months only, and trust to Providence to provide for them for the remainder of the year—or, in other words, to leave them to almost certain death.

Under any circumstances, it is most desirable that the earliest possible intimation be made to those interested as to the probable number of those who will be absolutely unprovided for, with an idea as to the amount of money that will be required to keep all alive for a space of twelve months. It may be that a generous British public will come forward when they learn the dreadful alternative choice to which you may be put, and save you from having to decide on the subject, or it may be that the counsels of humanity may prevail over all others at the Sublime Porte, and that the Turkish Government, even at considerable self-sacrifice, will do what is necessary to save its own subjects from perishing from the most dreadful of deaths. As the Government is this year collecting its tithes in kind, it will have the means at hand of effecting enormous good,

* On arrival at Constantinople, I shall direct the Ottoman Bank to honour your drafts up to value of 1,000*l.* sterling.

and, before making a further appeal to British charity, I would wish you to ascertain what measures of relief, if any, the Turkish Government itself contemplates carrying out. I fear, however, that the criminal apathy which characterizes most of those who are responsible for the local good government does not hold out much prospect of effectual assistance to be derived from the Turkish Government.

It is also desirable to know what the Armenians may be doing in the way of relief for their own poor. I understand they have 1,000*l.* now in hand, which they are wisely keeping in reserve to purchase grain when prices are lower.

When you have fairly ascertained data to go upon, please telegraph results to me, care of Ambassador, Constantinople.

I am of opinion that any sums that may be received for relief after date should also be expended in the purchase of grain, as soon as prices fall to a sufficiently low figure. If barley be much cheaper than wheat, it may be desirable to make purchases of the former, of which fair bread can be made. I would also suggest the purchase of millet seed, bearing in mind that it must be new seed, or it will probably not grow.

You have hitherto devoted yourself with such zeal to the service of those amongst whom your lot has been for a time cast, that I feel perfectly certain you will leave nothing undone that can be done by you to relieve the suffering around you, both present and prospective. I feel that I cannot do better than leave you unhampered by further instructions, so, wishing you all success in your campaign against famine, I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S.—Please send me, care of Ambassador, Constantinople, a detailed account of what you see and hear during your present journey. I will, if necessary, send it on to Lady Strangford.

H. T.

No. 80.

Consul Henderson to Earl Granville.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 6. Political.)

Aleppo, August 15, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a further despatch, and its inclosure, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Special Ambassador at Constantinople on the condition of the district of Gisser Shoghl.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 19.)

Aleppo, August 14, 1880.

Sir,

ADVERTING to my despatch No. 18 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a petition from the inhabitants of Gisser and Kessab, which district I have again visited for the purpose of verifying the truth of the statements made to me, before reporting further to your Excellency on the subject.

During the Egyptian occupation of Syria, in 1835, the reign of terror existing in this district culminated in the rising of the whole population to put to death their feudal tyrant, Sherif Agha. His son, Mehemed Agha, escaped with a severe wound, and induced the Egyptian Governor of Syria to send a large military force to restore order.

The small town of Ordu was then razed to the ground, and Mehemed Agha was appointed Governor of the district. The rule of the independent Dereh Bey was thus succeeded by that of a provincial authority, nominally under the control of the Central Government of Aleppo, but without any restraint over being exercised on the part of the latter. Acts of wanton cruelty and oppression have continued from then till now, without any check whatever.

Thus, the Greek priest of Ordu, Michael, who is one of the petitioners mentioned in the inclosed document, being lately about to marry, was summoned by Mehemed Agha, and ordered to pay 15*l.* as a tax on his matrimonial licence. He declared his

utter inability to furnish such an amount, and induced the father of his bride to have the ceremony secretly performed. Mehemed Agha heard of it, and sent his retainers to burn the house in which the priest was married. Ghengi Agha, a wealthy Mussulman villager, of an excellent reputation, complained of injustice done to him by Mehemed Agha in the collection of his tithes, and stated in his petition to the Governor-General of Aleppo that he could prove an amount of 15,000*l.* robbed from the population in the same way.

The case was hushed up through the payment of bribes at Aleppo, and Ghengi Agha has ever since been an object of persecution on the part of Mehemed Agha. Two months ago similar complaints were presented by other Mussulman proprietors, and Aarif Agha, the son of Mehemed Agha, went to Aleppo for the purpose of purchasing immunity for his father, which, on his return to Ordu, he openly boasted of having obtained for the small sum of 800*l.* while he could easily recoup himself by exactions. Ghengi Agha became the victim of his special vengeance, in the belief that he had again complained, although, in fact, he was in no way connected with the affair, and the crops of this land-owner, worth hundreds of pounds, were burnt in the night.

Aarif Agha has taken up the task of oppression which Mehemed Agha's great age now prevents his actively fulfilling, and the cruelty and rapacity of the son far surpasses that of the father. He is in the habit of threatening the Christians with extermination, in the same manner as they were massacred at Damascus twenty years ago, if they should dare to appeal to any higher authority against his exactions. He is at present engaged in an attempt to appropriate wholesale the tithes of this year under the new system of collection, which will, if it succeeds, leave him and his confederate, the Kaimakam of Gisser Shoghl, a profit of 1,000*l.* each. That the nominal Governor should enter into this nefarious arrangement can hardly be wondered at, after the summary recall of all those of his predecessors who ventured to oppose the proceedings of this powerful family.

Aarif Agha boasts that, during the last three years, he has paid 3,500*l.* at Aleppo as bribes, but that the exactions he has levied on the inhabitants of the district far exceeds that amount.

His protectors at Aleppo are the members of the rich and powerful family of Muderez-zadé.

The elder brother, Hussein Pasha, is a member of the Medjliss Idaré, or Administrative Council. The other brothers are members of the different Tribunals, and the influence they can bring to bear on the Local Government in favour of their rapacious and tyrannical protégés is such, that few Governors-General would dare to oppose them.

The most effective and only remedy for these evils seems to me to be the immediate exile from Ordu of Aarif and Sabit Aghas, with the appointment of a local Governor, who would, and could, after their removal, carry on the public business of the district in a humane, a vigorous, and an equitable manner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

Petition addressed to Consul Henderson by Inhabitants of Kessab, &c.

Kessab, August 7, 1880.

Sir;

WE hope that you will kindly excuse us for the liberty we have taken in writing to you a few lines. We request you to be so kind as to give your kind attention to our complaints, under which always one sigh. Our complaints are against the tyrants of Ordu village, namely, Hadji Muhamad and his children, Ariph and Sepit. Since many years, we have been suffering an intolerable oppression from these men.

In the year 1876, with regard to the counting of cattle, these men threatened the flock-keepers that they should conceal the four-fifths of their cattle from counting, and after they secretly collected the cattle-tax and appropriated the four-fifths of the collected money and the one-fifth was given to the Government. These men used to claim obedience for every respect from the flock-keepers, but when they found the flock-keepers could not please them, immediately reported the Government to reaccount the flocks, and as soon as the information was given to the Government immediately the Government punished the flock-keepers by taking double tax from them and

imprisoned some of them long time. Two men from the prisoners, who became sick in the prison, as soon as they were released from the prison died. The men that came to a desolation were Suloglu Mardiros and Sipa Oglu Sipa.

In the year 1877 Ariph and his brother Sepit 18,000 piastres extorted from the flock-keepers through Gergis, the son of Bedir of Kessab, as they did the same this year.

When the tithe was put to auction nobody could attempt to take it, and they used to extort money from the population, double or triple tithe, as they did do it to Boynuyunuchae Bogos and his brother Sarkis, and Duzdahan Oglu Aridac, so that these tyrants fearfully ruined these poor people.

In the village of Chander a man named Pasha-choban had given his daughter to be married to a man. As soon as Ariph and his brother Sepit heard this matter took from her father, Pasha-choban, 50*l.* and a flock of cattle by force.

A man named Bozoglu, of Bezga village, his whole property was usurped by Ariph.

Last year when they were collecting the tithe-tax they took five-tenths from the population of Sungier.

Lately they got burnt the mill of Hoosep, the relative of M. Garboushian.

At Ashargie village they, in order to usurp the property of Haji Mahmud Oglu Ali, at midday through some rogues robbed his house.

Every year for the levy of soldiers they used to extort from the Mussulman population about 300*l.*, but this year more than 1,000*l.*

In the year 1876 the tithe matter was committed to their care, but they kept back three-fourths of the tithe from the Government.

If these men should not be removed from here no doubt the tithe will increase about 2,000*l.*

They got burnt Funoglu Gergis' house, of Ordu.

Now they are trying to usurp the property of Michael Uriest, of Ordu. There are hundred cases like these. Now your most humble servants request you that it may please you to deliver us from the tyranny of these men.

(Signed) ———.

No. 81.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 475.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 4, 1880, 5·40 P.M.*

PLEASE communicate Mr. Thomson's telegram No. 112, respecting export of provisions, to Clayton, at whose suggestion inquiry was made.

No. 82.

Consul-General Abbott to Earl Granville.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 24. Confidential.)
Tabreez, July 31, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 18 and 22 of last year, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of three despatches and one inclosure, addressed by me to Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran, regarding disturbances on the Turko-Persian frontier, and the proceedings of the Kurdish Chief Sheikh Obeidoollah.

The Kurdish question, involving the welfare of thousands of Armenian Christians, will sooner or later engage the attention of Europe. It is a question which has several phases. I am watching with interest its effects on this side of the frontier; but it is in Turkey that we must look for the causes which are now operating in the dominions of the Shah.

Although the temporal power of the Sultan becomes daily more and more impaired in Europe, it must not be supposed that, in Asia, his spiritual attributes, as the Head of Islam, will undergo a proportionate diminution. Mahommedan fanaticism will not slumber whilst there be men of Sheikh Obeidoollah's stamp to preach and act. On the other hand, the Sheikh might find it advantageous to free himself, a second time, of the

nominal allegiance he owes to the Porte, in which case, every Kurd in Turkey and Persia would flock to his standard.

Whether, as an instrument in the hands of the retrograde party in Turkey or as a rebel defying the Porte, he would not hesitate to exterminate the Christian populations in his path. Massacres, like that at Bayazid—which he instigated—would probably recommence in Turkish Armenia and extend to the Persian border.

But if the Sheikh could be induced to range himself on the side of order, he might be useful, under British auspices, in keeping the Kurds in some kind of control, and a further effusion of blood would be happily obviated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

P.S.—I am indebted to the American missionaries at Oroomiah for the information regarding Sheikh Obeidoollah's proceedings, contained in the inclosures to this despatch, but I communicate that intelligence to your Lordship with all due reserve, and more so, as I have since learned, that the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs denies the accuracy of the report that the Sheikh's son is negotiating at Oroomiah for certain districts in Persia being made over to his care, or that he should be allowed to name the Governors himself.

W. G. A.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 38.)
Tabreez, July 14, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 11th instant my Turkish colleague had an audience of the Vali, and to represent to His Royal Highness the unsatisfactory state of affairs prevailing on the Turko-Persian frontier in the vicinity of Bashkaleh, after which he telegraphed to the Representative of the Porte at Tehran and to the Pasha of Van.

It appears that the Shekak and Hydranloo Kurds have made predatory incursions into Turkey; but, on the other hand, the Persian authorities complain that tribes from the Turkish side have secretly fomented these troubles. In other words, nomads who owe allegiance to the Shah are considerably influenced by their Sunni co-religionists in Ottoman territory, whilst Sheikh Obeidoolah, their Spiritual Chief, is held in veneration and fear within both borders.

I believe there is some intention of sending General Kooby Khan from Tabreez to the frontier, where he would be probably met by a Commissioner from the Porte, to effect an arrangement of the present difficulty; but the Khan himself told me that he was not anxious to undertake such a mission, which could produce no good result unless he were properly supported by the Persian Government.

The present frontier feud between Turkey and Persia will be doubtless patched up—as I have seen it done for the last three years—to break out afresh a few months hence; and it is evident that no permanent results will be obtained towards the pacification of the border until those two Powers formally enter into a special Convention for the purpose. I, however, fear that their sectarian differences would for the present render them unable to discuss such a question in an impartial spirit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 39.)
Tabreez, July 15, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the supine attitude assumed last year by the Porte towards the insurrectionary Kurdish Chief Sheikh Obeidoollah, appears likely to produce serious complications.

The Turkish Government, instead of inflicting upon the Sheikh the punishment due to a rebel, heaped favours upon him, and he is now carrying out his ambitious projects with apparent impunity.

I learn that he is purchasing villages both in Turkey and Persia, which will greatly

increase his influence, that he has succeeded in bringing the Shekak tribe, who owe allegiance to the Shah, considerably under his control, and that he is well supplied with Martini rifles.

The Sheikh's son recently visited Bazargar with a detachment of Turkish troops. This place, in a valley between Gawar and Beradoost, formerly inhabited by a few Jewish families, but now in ruins, is close to the boundary point. The object of this movement was either to make an armed demonstration against Ali Khan, the Shekak Chief, or to rebuild the ruined walls of Bazargar.

At Merghever the Persian Government are unable to place a Representative owing to the opposition of the Sheikh. The Chiefs of Ooshnoo and Lahijan—vassals and tributaries of the Shah—are negotiating for a status of independance which will make them virtually the Sheikh's allies.

These proceedings are calculated to undermine the authority of the Shah amongst his tribal subjects. My impression is that Sheikh Obeidoollah is carrying out the wishes of the retrograde party in Turkey, and that his movements ought to be narrowly watched, as being likely to cause embarrassments for both the Persian and Turkish Governments.

In my despatch to your Excellency No. 37 of last year, I referred to the antecedents of this Kurdish Chief. I believe he is keeping alive the flame of fanaticism amongst the followers of Islam, and that if his actions be not restrained, he will again prove as great a scourge to the Christian populations in his vicinity as he did during the late war.

It is most undesirable that he should be allowed to extend his influence within the Persian border, and I have expressed that opinion to the local authorities.

It is doubtless in consequence of the course he is pursuing in that direction that the Persian Government—as stated in my despatch No. 38 of yesterday's date—trace the origin of existing frontier troubles to Turkish territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 82.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 44.)
Tabreez, July 25, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39, dated the 15th instant, I have the honour to inclose the extract of a letter addressed to me by the physician of the American Mission at Oroomiah, giving a very interesting account of his recent visit to Sheikh Obeidoollah at No-chea.

The two last paragraphs of this letter deserve special attention. The Sheikh appears to have usurped authority over the Shah's Kurdish vassals and tributaries, and does not hesitate to threaten vengeance if the Persian Government decline his proposals.

I have no doubt the American missionaries are actuated by prudent motives in cultivating friendly relations with the "Monarch of the Kurds," but I would not advise them, nor indeed any European who may be thrown in contact with him, to place implicit reliance upon his professions of friendship; and the Persian Government will doubtless perceive that it behoves them to deal cautiously with the Sheikh, in their own interests as well as for the peace and security of the border.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 82.

An American Physician to Consul-General Abbott.

(Extract.)
Oroomiah, July 8, 1880.

ALLOW me to give you a brief account of my observations whilst visiting Sheikh Obeidoolah. He being very sick, I went at his urgent request to No-chea at the end of April, being a guest in his house one week.

He considers himself the third man in ecclesiastical rank in Islam. He is also the acknowledged Civil Monarch of all the Kurds, excepting a few tribes who are nominally Persian subjects. He lives in a Royal way, entertaining daily at his gates from 500 to 1,000 visitors of all classes. His character stands out in clear contrast with that seen in

Persian officials as well as Turks. He, or his son, see personally all who come to them on business, no matter how trivial it may be. His home life is more simple. No alcohol ever enters his town. From early morning to late at night he and his Heir Apparent are employed in the interests of his Government and people.

The Sheikh's people show great reverence and affection for him, but at the same time dare not disobey him. They say he is a just Ruler and Judge. He never takes bribes nor allows his officials to do so. Death is the punishment given to any who break this law.

I had many pleasant interviews with him. He is intelligent and anxious to learn what he can of civilized ideas and life. He said to me one day, "I wish my son had been under the influence of your people when young."

The Sheikh is trying to make citizens of his people and to discountenance all robbery and plundering. To this end he is purchasing agricultural lands at Gavar, Bashkalah, Merghever, and Terghever.

The Sheikh's son, named Sheikh Abdul Kadir, who is to succeed him, is now here. His object in coming is probably to lay before the Government a proposition on his father's part. The latter says that the Shekak Kurds, under Ali Khan, the Herkee Kurds, under Hassan Bey, together with a number of other Beys, all of whom are nominally Persian subjects, constantly rob Persian caravans and those belonging to himself. They also murder indiscriminately his subjects and those of Persia. He has often asked the Persian Government to punish them or allow him to do so, but has never been listened to nor his request regarded. He now wishes the three plains of Merghever, Terghever, and Beradoost, lying between Oroomiah and the Turkish boundary, to be rented to him for a certain amount annually, and he promises to be security for any robbery committed in those regions. He told me that if this were refused, and his subjects constantly plundered, he should take the law into his own hands, and utterly demolish these tribes. His son came a few weeks ago with cannon and an army to Beradoost, to fight the Shekaks, but Ali Khan promised allegiance to the Sheikh, and in token thereof sent his son and men of rank, to the number of 100, to pay their respects to the Sheikh, who bought a village and erected a fort at Beradoost, between the Shekak and Herkee lands.

We shall do what is our duty towards entertaining the Sheikh's son whilst here, as they were so very kind and respectful to me whilst there.

No. 83.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 297.)
Therapia, August 30, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Konieh respecting the interference of a Turkish official in a case decided before the Commercial Court at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Vice-Consul Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 19. Political.)
Konia, August 18, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to bring the following case to your Excellency's notice as an illustration of the little dependence that can be put on the Courts and officials when an influential personage is one of the parties concerned.

A few days ago a Greek, Chevy Oglou by name, called on me with the following complaint. He was one of the parties concerned in a lawsuit before the Tejaret (Commercial) Court—a suit about some money he had borrowed from a Turk, Paisikh Effendi, a resident of Constantinople, and who is represented here by a Notable called Hadji Faikh, the President of the Konia Municipality. The Court came to a decision favourable to Chevy Oglou. At this stage of the proceedings the Muftetish stepped in, upbraided the Court, and carried off the papers.

I called on the Muftetish, who entered into a long explanation of his conduct. I remarked that I had no idea who was right or wrong; all I knew was that the Court had

decided, and that the decision should now be made public. I further remarked that if the decision was wrong, it was for Hadji Fasikh and his principal, if they thought it worth while, to appeal to Stamboul Court. The Muffetish did not deny that the Court had come to a decision, but said he had written to the President to inquire.

After a few days I again called on the Muffetish, who informed me that he had received a letter from the President stating that the case was not finished. I repeated very much what I had said in the former interview, namely, that it was notorious that the Court had decided and affixed their signatures to the proceedings, although they had not publicly notified it, and further, that I considered the recent proceedings most unsatisfactory, and that I should feel bound to report the matter as an instance of the way business is managed. The Muffetish then informed me that he contemplated sending the papers connected with the case to Stamboul.

There can be no doubt that the President of the Court, who is an incompetent, ignorant drunkard, was very much frightened by the Mufettish, and is now trying to get out of the business, and if possible reverse the decision. The members of the Court, however, announce their determination to abide by what they have done. As for the legal points of the case, not being a lawyer I did not consider it my duty to inquire, preferring to rest my case on the broad principle of the Court having already given a decision. I would, however, beg to point out that the probability is that the Court decided honestly, as they certainly decided against their own interest, Chevy Oglou Oglou being far too poor to bribe. As for the conduct of the Mufettish I am unwilling to express an opinion, but it would appear as if he had rather strained his authority. Although he may not have exactly attempted to dictate, he has apparently succeeded in frightening the President. From the little I know of the Mufettish, he is certainly above the ordinary run of officials and appears anxious to do his best. Since his arrival he has greatly improved the administration of justice, and so arranged the Courts that the proceedings are now carried on in public. He is, however, proud, and I suppose foolish enough to think it a weakness to acknowledge when he has made a mistake. As he is an exceptionally good official, this case only shows more plainly how great is the influence of these Notables.

It is probable that had the case been reversed, and the decision given in favour of the Notable, I should have been told that the Court had decided, and that there was no remedy but an appeal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 84.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 298.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 30, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Reports from Consul-General Miles and Vice-Consul Russell upon the state of affairs in the Vilayets of Bagdad and Moosul. I also inclose the translation of a news Report received by Colonel Miles from the British Agent at Kermanshah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 84.

Consul-General Miles to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 86. Confidential.)
Sir, *Bagdad, August* 4, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that His Majesty the Sultan has continued to purchase on his private account land and villages that have been put up for sale in this vilayet. Within the last two months he has bought up, for merely nominal sums, four lots as follows:—

	£ T.
Mahmoudujek of Kazimein	2,200
Museyib of Kerbella village	4,500
Nasariyek of Kerbella	4,500
Dujeyl of Samrah	5,000
	15,700

The yearly rental of the above property, I am informed, used to be nearly double of the amount now paid by His Imperial Majesty as the cost price.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. B. MILES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 84.

Vice-Consul Russell to Consul-General Miles.

(No. 35.)
Sir, *Moosul, July* 15, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram which I had the honour to send to you on the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that an officer of zaptiehs, named Halil Agha of Moosul, was killed by the Hamawands, as well as some eight or ten zaptiehs who were with him. There is a rumour here, which the Government deny, that a party of regular troops have joined the Hamawands in revolt. It is quite probable that the rumour is true, considering that some of the regiments have not received any pay for over two years, and are not likely to get their arrears of pay for some time to come, I should think.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. F. RUSSELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 84.

Vice-Consul Russell to Consul-General Miles.

(No. 37.)
Sir, *Moosul, July* 16, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30, dated the 23rd June, 1880, acknowledging the receipt of T. £50 on account of the Relief Fund, I have the honour herewith to transmit to you the inclosed statement of the amounts distributed to the different communities.

I am sorry to report that prices are rising instead of falling, as I expected. It appears merchants are speculating and buying up large quantities of wheat, and storing it to keep the price up, so that in the coming winter prices will be higher than they are now, and they will make a large profit. It seems regrettable that, after such a severe famine as we have had, the local authorities do not take the necessary steps to prevent these speculative merchants from keeping up the high price of grain which will cause such great suffering to the poorer classes, who have already suffered enough the last six months.

I have just heard from an American missionary at Oroomiah that the Nestorians are beginning to suffer a good deal at Tiary, Tkhoma, Seloo, and Bay, and other places in the mountains. He has sent an agent down here to buy grain and transport it to these places. Curious to say, during the height of the famine in the plains, the Mountain Nestorians suffered very little, and looked after their own poor without any foreign assistance. It is only now that they are beginning to suffer, as their rice and other crops are not ripe, and the American missionaries are now sending relief to these mountaineers to prevent them from starving.

Many families are still in want here, and when it was known I had received fresh funds from you I had more applications for relief than I really expected, so for that reason I asked for another 100*l*. With regard to the 200*l*. you asked if I had received from Constantinople, I have heard nothing about the money. Mr. Naoum Saghi, a few days ago, received a remittance of 200*l*. from the Ottoman Bank, making in all 1,000*l*. Many of the Moosul poor that went down to Bagdad are now returning.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. F. RUSSELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 84.

Translation of a News Report from the British Agent at Kermanshah, dated 24th Shaban, 1297 (corresponding to the 1st August, 1880).

(After compliments.)

I HUMBLY beg to report the recent news of this place as follows:—

The employés of the Kermanshah Government have telegraphed to His Highness the Governor thus:—

"After we collected we proceeded against the Ahmed Awnd, but found they had sent their families to the Ja'af tribe, and themselves taken flight in the direction of Sulimanieh (I mean their horsemen), and committed all sorts of mischief and destruction."

At present none of them have remained in the Kermanshah territory. The telegram so reports, but the truth or falsity has not as yet been ascertained.

There was a certain bad character, by name of Hussan, who had been the cause of many robberies and disorders. He has recently been arrested and decapitated by the orders of the authorities. An artilleryman who was accused of mischievous conduct poisoned himself to death by taking 1½ miscals of opium.

Owing to the grain produce being collected the prices have fallen. Wheat is selling at 3½ tomans and barley at 2½ tomans per kharwar. Mooeen ood Dowleh, the Persian Consul of Bagdad, after stopping here some days, proceeded to Tehran three days ago.

No. 85.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 300.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 30, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 243 of the 15th July last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kaisarieh containing his observations on the Porte's note of the 5th ultimo respecting reforms in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 4. Political.)

Sir, *Kaisarieh, August 17, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 24th ultimo, calling for my observations on the Porte's reply to that portion of your Excellency's note of the 11th June relating to the fulfilment of the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and to reply thereto.

From the concluding paragraph it would appear that the reply relates only to the Provinces of Van, Diarbekir, Bitlis, Erzeroum, and Siwas; as, however, the term "other vilayets," at the commencement is somewhat vague, I should prefer dealing with it as if it referred to this district, *i.e.*, the Kaisarieh Sandjak of the Angora vilayet.

1. Nothing is known as to any competent officials having been sent to this vilayet to report on required improvements.

2. The separation of the Nizamié Tribunals from the Executive power was effected by the newly appointed "Mufletish" (Inspector of Justice at the head-quarters of the vilayet) at the commencement of the present year, but I should prefer to leave the opinion as to whether this is an improvement, or otherwise, to those who are better able to judge of its effects.

3. A new system of levying the land tax is under experiment in the Kaisarieh Cazu. By it the owner of the soil pays a certain fixed sum annually instead of the tithe, which sum is to be computed from the average of the tithes of the last five years, a fair arrangement if carried out in its integrity, and possessing the undeniable advantage that there will be no hindrance to the crops being stored as soon as threshed out, instead of being left, to rot perhaps, until such time as the collector makes it convenient to come round. What will happen in the case of a failure of crops, or whether the new arrangement will lead to disputes between the landlord and tenant, the latter of whom formerly paid the

tithe, but who will now have to pay an increased rental instead to indemnify the landlord, remains to be seen; but to those who farm their own land it should be an undoubted benefit, as they will soon discover it is to their interest to farm well and produce good crops; unfortunately nothing has been said as to the duration of the compact. The experiment cannot yet be said to be in working order, as the averages have not yet been struck; the harvest has been gathered and almost stored; but no one knows what he will have to pay.

As regards the system of collecting taxes, a tax-collector has been recently appointed for this sandjak. He has two assistants, one for each caza, and fourteen sub-collectors in the district. His duty is to collect the tithes, house tax, military exemption tax, arrears, and income tax. The pay of these officials varies with the amount collected; if the whole is collected, 5 per cent. is divided proportionately amongst them, but if less than the whole, a smaller percentage, so that it is to their advantage to collect as much as possible.

4. As regards the police, I can hear nothing as to the reorganization of that force, and its state leaves much to be desired. It is true that in this district there is little cause for alarm from highway robbers, but I think I must attribute this satisfactory state of affairs rather to the nature of the country, and the absence, until quite recently, of the Circassian element, than to any efficiency on the part of the zaptiehs. Owing to the inferior quality of the clothing issued to them, they present a miserably slack appearance, and only last week I heard that two of the force had been dismissed and sentenced to ninety days' imprisonment for a robbery with violence. Their pay is as follows: for a foot zaptieh, 80 piastres, for a mounted zaptieh, 100 piastres, per month (two months in arrear), with a reasonable allowance of bread, barley, and clothing.

5. The system of communal ("nahie") divisions has been in operation in this sandjak for many years. I do not know why Christians should not be eligible for the higher grades of Administrators; but it is evidently only intended that they may become Administrators of communes or nahies; possibly this is not of much importance at the present time, but with a stationary Moslem population and an increasing Christian one, the time may come when the Christians would be in a majority in a caza or even a sandjak, and the reply on this point seems to be rather illiberal. It is not clear to me what is meant by the majority—"they will belong to the religion of the majority:" if Christians are counted as one religion, well and good, but if Armenians and Greeks are to be taken separately, it rather alters the case.

The proposals respecting the communal police sound well, especially if it is intended that the co-operation of the police of adjoining nahiés is to be irrespective of the vilayets; what I mean is, that the police of adjoining nahiés or cazas, even though belonging to different vilayets, should be able to co-operate when necessary without reference to their respective vilayets. So much time is taken up in a country like this, where the facilities for rapid intercommunication are so bad, in referring questions of this sort to the Heads of Departments, that a miscarriage of justice often occurs.

I do not see how this new organization can much affect communal schools, nor be the means of improving communications; for the latter what is wanted is labour and money (both generally obtainable on the spot by the system of forced labour and exemptions), and really practical energetic engineers with definite orders and powers.

6. As regards the creation of Assize Courts, which by the context it is evidently intended are to visit the cazas and nahiés, if impartial and competent Courts of Assize emanating from the head-quarters of the vilayet, or even from Constantinople, can be established, which shall visit the several cazas and nahiés without being a burthen and expense on the communities, and without causing unreasonable delays in the administration of justice, then by all means let them be established. Nothing has been heard here as to the creation of these Courts, and I observe with regret that there is no mention made of European Inspectors for the same.

7. The promise that one-tenth of the surplus revenue of the vilayet shall be devoted annually to education and public works is a great stride in the right direction. An equitable division of that portion of the money which is to be devoted to educational purposes among the various sects of the Turkish subjects, and an economical application of the remainder to public works cannot fail in time to produce a great improvement in the country.

The population of this sandjak is, as nearly as I can ascertain, as under:—

Males—Moslems, 55,302; Armenians, 18,808; Greeks, 12,171.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 86.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 306.)

Therapia, August 30, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an interesting despatch from Captain Stewart, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Konieh.

He tells the same sad story about refugees as so many others.

Baker Pasha has given me similar information as to the stream of emigrants pouring in from various quarters. It seems incredible that while the Ottoman Government is utterly powerless to deal with this question, and declares its want of means to sustain the growing number of refugees, encouragement should apparently still be given to their arrival, while certainly no measures are taken to induce their return.

I heard, on the highest authority, that the question of the best mode of dealing with these immigrants has again been brought before the Council of Ministers; but they could or would not give it adequate attention, owing to their whole time being absorbed by the Greek and Montenegrin questions.

I consider that there is great force in Captain Stewart's remarks with regard to the advantages which the provinces would derive from the revival of the Constitution. Your Lordship is aware, from my despatch No. 47 of the 14th June, what are my opinions on this subject. I shall return to this most important question as soon as the attention of the Ministers can be secured for its serious consideration. At present, the Councils which are held almost daily on the foreign complications leave them no thoughts for anything else.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Vice-Consul Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 17. Political.)

Konia, August 18, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that within the last few days another batch of emigrants—Arnaut peasants from Kossova—arrived here numbering 240 souls. Their state on arrival was most deplorable; they were almost starving, clad in rags, and about seventy of them suffering from fever. They state that on their arrival at Messina and Selepki they were sent on to Adana, where they remained for some time, and lost by death many of their numbers. From there they were sent on here without any proper arrangements having been made for the journey. They state that in some of the villages they passed through the inhabitants refused to supply them with food. Eight of them are reported to have died on the road.

On arrival here, the Imperial Commissioner, Mr. Ali Riza Bey, took up their case most warmly, ordered rations to be given them, and quartered them in some Medirsas, where they are now stopping.

I have visited them there, and inquired for what reason they left their own country. The answer was, how could they live under a Christian Government. On being further questioned some of them said that they were compelled to leave by Government officials. That this last answer is the true one is probable, the Turkish Government being desirous of strengthening the Mahommedan population here, and also abhorring the idea of Mahommedans living under Christian rule.

Whatever is the cause of their leaving, there is no doubt that the emigrants are most anxious to return, which can hardly be wondered at considering their wretched circumstances, and the poor prospect of any amelioration. With reference to this case, I have just heard that it has been decided to send them on to Smyrna.

Not alone is this I might almost say forced emigration a great hardship on the wretched, misguided emigrants, but it is also a great burden on the residents, who are expected to provide for them. Doubtless, there is much vacant land in Anatolia, but it is not so easy to find the necessary wood and water. Indeed, in this part of the country, wood is so scarce that the people use tezek, or dried bullock dung, for fuel. Even when suitable sites are found, the difficulty remains of building houses, supplying seed, corn, agricultural implements, bullocks, &c. In so far as the residents are concerned, I can confidently state that but little is to be expected from them. They are loud in their complaints of this additional burden after all they have lately suffered,

stating it is either a case of their being reduced to starvation or the emigrants. That the condition of the peasantry has changed immensely for the worse is the opinion of all with whom I have spoken, including that of travellers who have again revisited this country after a lapse of some years. How far the Local Government can give assistance, even if allowed, the present state of the finances here will show.

The revenue of this vilayet under the most favourable circumstances is roughly put down at 60,000,000 piastres. Against this are havalés estimated 35,000,000 piastres, working expenses at least 13,000,000 piastres, leaving a balance of 12,000,000 piastres. Against this must be put the heavy losses Government will undoubtedly suffer by the new system of collecting the tithes, and the losses through locusts and arrears, so that a large deficit is almost certain. At the present moment I know that the pressure for money is exceedingly severe; indeed, it is only the other day that the Government found the greatest difficulty in raising a temporary loan of some 6,000 piastres.

In view of the penury of the Government and the people, the dissatisfaction with which the inhabitants witness the continual arrival of destitute and helpless emigrants, many of them ignorant of Turkish, is not surprising. So great is this dissatisfaction, and so weak is the Government, that I should not be surprised if riots were to occur in many places.

If the Government could be induced to discourage this emigration a great boon would be conferred on all parties.

Opinion of the Country.—As for the feeling here in respect to the recent pressure put on Turkey, it is difficult as yet to form an opinion. Judging from the official class, and others who read the papers, the opinion is that the Powers have acted unfairly towards this country. As for the bulk of the people, they are comparatively ignorant of the whole matter, but will doubtless follow the lead of the officials, notables, priests, &c. All they as yet hope for is that there will be no war. I would, however, beg to point out to your Excellency the great danger there is of newspapers, such as the "Terdjoumani Hakikat," and others with their inflammatory articles stirring up a fanatical spirit.

In this town there are generally some 2,000 to 3,000 Softas; these people are now away, praying and collecting the Zekat (canonical tithes) in the different villages, but will return after the Ramazan, and form a nucleus of fanaticism.

Konia has the reputation of being exceedingly fanatical, whether exceptionally so is hard to say, but many of the Mahommedans doubtless look back with regret on the old order of things, and consider the present state of the Empire as greatly due to the privileges accorded the Giaours, and to the comparative neglect into which the Cheri law has fallen. If ignorance and superstition are a correct standard by which to judge fanaticism, the following from the local paper will give some idea of what may be expected. Writing of the locusts, the editor expresses his opinion that they are sent as a punishment from the Almighty for the lax way in which the peasantry keep the fast of the Ramazan.

With the present spirit pervading the public press, it is hard to say what might happen if Turkey were reduced to despair, and in particular if England sided strongly against her. Even Mahommedans have told me that in such a case they would prefer a residence somewhat nearer the seashore. In the event of a rising of the fanatical and disorderly population to be found in every town, I question if the Government, with its ill-paid, ill-armed, and ill-disciplined zaptiehs being able to put a stop to the bloodshed and pillage that would ensue.

That such a rising will occur is, I will not say probable, but not by any means impossible.

Although I suppose unavoidable, it is to be regretted that in the many schemes of reforms the Christians and their grievances have been so very prominent, isolating, as it were, the Mahommedans. If it had been thought advisable to urge the Porte to carry out some scheme such as Midhat's Constitution, the sympathy of many among the intelligent Mahommedans would have been enlisted; they would have seen that Europe was also kindly disposed to them; at any rate, they would not have felt themselves left out in the cold. Whether this country is adapted for Parliamentary Government is of course an open question, but if Bulgarians, Serbs, &c., have been judged sufficiently advanced for such a system, it is hard to see why their former masters, the Turks, should be considered unfit. At any rate, failing direct European supervision, it is difficult to see what else can be done that has a chance of success. Any number of paper projects and Organic Statutes may be devised; Christians may be appointed Governors, and exalted to high positions but; as long as the present

irresponsible and secret Palace Government continues, nothing will avail to mitigate the evil.

It is often asserted that the public are careless about Parliamentary Government; but while admitting this to be true in general, there are many, and their number is increasing, who look with some hope on such a system as affording some chance of putting an end to the present stupid despotism.

The following are a few of the many advantages which might be expected to result from open discussion:—

1. Some control might be exercised over the finances, and a stop put to the present ruinous Palace expenditure.

2. Laws would be sifted and adapted to the intelligence of the people and the officials.

3. A public opinion would be gradually formed.

4. Ministers would feel their responsibility, &c.

But for such a Government to be of any practical use it must be strongly supported by foreign influence.

The action of a foreign Government insisting upon the Constitution being carried out would be appreciated and understood by many throughout the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. STEWART.

No. 87.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 310.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 31, 1880.

MAJOR TROTTER, who has arrived here, informs me he has received a telegram from Captain Everett at Erzeroum, who reports having received a letter from a missionary at Kars, dated the 16th instant, in which he announces the arrival at that place of 20,000 men and 80 guns, and states that more are expected.

Major Trotter does not consider that much importance should be attached to this information, which probably originates in some vague rumour, while Sir E. Hamley, who is now at Therapia, entirely discredits the story, as, he says, no such movement of troops came under his observation, and they could hardly have taken place unnoticed by him during his journey from Erzeroum to Tiflis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 88.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 314.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 31, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 290 of the 27th instant and 300 of the 30th August, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Chermside, containing his observations on the plan of reform in Asia Minor communicated to the Ambassadors by the Sublime Porte in its note of the 5th ultimo.

There appears to be considerable unanimity of opinion amongst those who are well able to judge as to the general necessities of the case, the differences of opinion which are expressed on minor points relating chiefly to the degree of practical advantage which may be expected from some of the proposals made.

As to the principles which ought to underlie these reforms there is not much difference.

All the Consular Agents of Her Majesty in Asia Minor generally repeat over and over again that nothing can be hoped for for the provinces unless there is a real reform at the centre in Constantinople, and notably at the Palace; but how such a reform can be brought about is naturally a question beyond their competence.

Your Lordship will also have observed that most of our Consuls believe that without foreign inspection or intervention it is greatly to be feared that all attempts at reform will prove abortive, and sundry plans have been proposed at different times for giving effect to this idea.

I purposely abstained in preparing a draft answer to the note of the Porte from

dealing with this subject beyond referring to the "superintendence of the Powers" introduced by the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and I would wish to call attention to the fact that the answer to the note of the Porte is not intended to be a counter-proposal to the reforms proposed by the Turkish Government, but simply a reply pointing out the utter inadequacy of the Turkish plan.

It is much to be desired that negotiations may be accepted by the Porte with reference to agreeing on some adequate plan of reform, and in that event it will be necessary to be prepared on the point as to whether the introduction of a foreign element into the Administration is to be insisted on as a *sine qud non*.

It is a matter of extreme difficulty, and I will not fail to communicate with your Lordship on the subject again if I know that your Lordship has been to any degree convinced, by the despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls, that all reforms would be delusive without some foreign aid.

I have not in view simply the inclosed despatch, nor those to which I have referred at the beginning of this despatch, when I make the above observations, but the general tenour of all the despatches bearing on reforms in Asia.

Colonel Wilson and Major Trotter are both here at present, so that I am able to go thoroughly into the whole question, in the discussion of which I am also aided by much information which Baker Pasha has been good enough to give me. This officer has returned to Constantinople, and will in a few days submit his Reports to the Sultan. I understand that His Majesty has received him very cordially.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 14.)

Sir, *Sivas, August* 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's despatch of the 24th July transmitting a printed copy of the Porte's reply to an identic note; I return herein by the next post my observations on it, according to your Excellency's instructions.

So little has been done, or even honestly attempted, in the way of reform that the note may be considered as applying almost wholly to professions for the future.

The document in question, while containing numerous admirable, if rather vague, suggestions, appears to me to be characterized by the great fault of almost all the Ottoman propositions for reform in Asiatic Turkey that I have seen, namely, that while giving undue prominence to minor questions, it completely fails to recognize the causes of the shortcomings and inefficiency of the present Administration, and the rudimentary and radical nature of the reforms most needed, nor does it appear to contain in itself any reasonable guarantee of its provisions being executed any more than the numerous existing ones, more or less admirable in conception, which remain a dead letter.

Like the Law of the Vilayets and other proposed reforms, it seems to consider the adaptation of integral parts of European models (such as the "Commune Unit" for the improvement of local government, and the "Code Napoléon" as model for the reorganization of Tribunals and procedure) as a panacea for the evils which it thereby assumes as rather due to existing regulations and enactments than to the omission by the lax, ignorant, and venal functionaries to execute such, and to consider that reform consists in adopting paper copies or modifications of the best models, without dealing effectively with the total absence of justice and security, fundamental principles on which the social polities that furnish the models are alone built up and maintained.

Another equally important point that appears to have been lost sight of is that general regulations which treat the Ottoman Empire as a homogeneous whole are not those which are as yet most urgently needed in the provinces. Independently of and in addition to some measures of local autonomy as to finance and public works, account must be taken of the heterogeneous elements, and the differences of conditions of life, habits, and circumstances of different portions of the vast Ottoman dominions in Asia.

The general measures needed apply more particularly, in my humble opinion, to the paralyzing corrupt centralization and patronage vested in Constantinople, and to its irresponsible and personal government, and are, of course, not considered in the note, nor would it be becoming in me to write of them to your Excellency; but I allude to them because the opinion of all the various Reform Commissioners with whom I have

been in official relations is that general regulations and reform are necessary in the Central Government, and special as well as general regulations in the provinces, the specific conditions of the latter being liable to variations according to the special requirements of localities.

Commissions of Reform.—The 3rd paragraph refers to the various Commissions dispatched, but where is their outcome? In Erzeroum, I understood from Major Trotter, none of their suggestions have been adopted or put in force. At Diarbekir almost the only result of Abédine Pasha's mission was the exile of the Kurdish Beys, many of whom have now, I hear, been released. Those at Siwas escaped *en masse* on Friday, the 6th August.

No answer was returned as long as I was in the vilayet (or since, I believe), or action taken on the resolutions of the Aleppo Consultative Assembly. (Blue Book "Turkey No. 1 (1880)," pp. 112-116.)

Tribunals.—As regards the Tribunals, it is true that a new organization has been introduced, which, in the opinion of Baker Pasha and other competent persons I have met, has been productive of good, but the principle of the inspection and supervision of Tribunals (Adlie Muffetish's Department), and public prosecution (Mudaie Umumu's Department) has not been carried far enough, as I have several times had the honour to point out. In some of the vilayets I have visited these functionaries have pointed out that their representatives in the sub-districts are merely ordinary Government officials with additional duties for which they have no special qualifications.

One copy only of the new laws, which heads of Tribunals, Judges, and members should all have opportunities of studying, is furnished, and the very numerous lesser Tribunals have not sensibly felt the effect of the new changes.

Tithes.—As regards the new Regulations now coming into force for the collection of the tithe, it is too early to criticize their working.

Gendarmerie.—Of the pretentious new organization of the gendarmerie, nominal employment of foreign officers, paralyzing opposition of Osman Pasha, and the manner in which the projects formulated are treated, your Excellency is too well informed for comment to be necessary from me. At present the old system, with all its abuses, obtains. Badly equipped, and often badly armed zaptiehs, numerically few, in arrears of pay. With hardly an exception, the very numerous members of the force I am brought in contact with complain pitifully of their condition, and whether from want of funds, power of organizing, or absence of real wish for change, all that has been hitherto done is a hollow farce. Baker Pasha, the Report of whose Gendarmerie Commission was ready when he left Constantinople, was nominally dispatched principally to reform this service; the Report has never been confirmed or acted on, and he has, in spite of repeated telegrams, been allowed to do nothing, and the opportunity of initiating, under so able an officer, the new system in the various vilayets he has visited, has been thrown away.

Commune Unit.—Division of country into communes; Assize Courts.

The idea of Assize Courts is one I have always advocated; I believe them well suited to the country.

As to Communal Councils, distance and want of communications will render their assembly very difficult, and for years they will be in the hands of the local Notables and Governors, and the vast majority of their members unable to read or write. If, in the matter of elections, the suffrage system fails, as your Excellency is aware it does fail in the larger units—sandjaks and cazas—and ignorant members contentedly accept the position of mere dummies, it is evident that for years to come, till security is general and education more developed, however desirable and efficient the proposition may be theoretically, practically little perceptible benefit will result to the mass of the population.

Local Gendarmerie.—As regards local gendarmerie, if its members are paid, disciplined and instructed, and a tight hand kept on them, it will be undoubtedly a good thing. The experiment at Zeitoun was not very successful.

Gendarmerie.—If loyally carried out, this will be a very great step. Power must be given to local Treasuries to pay the men. Baker Pasha's plan of compulsory service for picked men, to count as military service, instead of the present volunteer system, seems excellent, if experienced non-commissioned officers could be obtained. The present system of ill-paid, often unpaid, local zaptiehs, in league with brigands and employed principally to escort posts or travellers, carry letters and collect taxes, &c., must be radically dealt with. A proper system of billeting is also a *sine quâ non*, Christians and Moslems alike at present join in denouncing the exactions and forced entertainment of passing zaptiehs.

Town police, as instituted by Abédine Pasha at Diarbekir, Mardin, Sert, Malatia,

&c., seem an excellent institution, but they should be under the Municipalities, not the gendarmerie officers.

Communal Schools.—Village schools rather than communal schools must for years be the rule (see Baker Pasha's ideas, No. 6 of the 14th May, heading, Public Instruction). The hope of much from the initiative of the commune is but too likely to prove fallacious, as a moment's consideration, not only of the villages but even of the towns where Municipal Councils with funds exist, will show. Private enterprise is very, very little, no one will invest over a few hundred piastres, no matter what may be the undertaking, mines, wells, irrigation, hostelries, &c., in anything but slovenly primitive agriculture, commerce, or usury. One has only to look at the filthy streets, dung-heaps, carenses, ruined bridges and causeways, to see that the Government must find or promote energy, organization, and capital, and that it must learn itself ere it can teach the people.

The utter absence in Kurdistan and Arabistan of even the primitive wheeled transport, for farm purposes, of Anatolia, the universal slovenly agriculture and neglect of resources seem to indicate the same in the matter of agriculture and communication.

The commune principle indeed is excellent, but the country in a vast number of localities is too backward for its application to give good results for long to come. In the scattered mountain hamlets and farms of Northern Anatolia, in those and the "yaylas" or summer camps of the Taurus, Anti-Taurus, Giaour Dagh, and Bolkan, to talk to ignorant lawless Moslems and to ignorant degraded Christians, plundered by Kurds and Circassians, of Communal Councils as the great desideratum, seems almost a burlesque; and in the Adana, Aleppo, Mosul, and Baghdad provinces the nomad and semi-nomad questions, affecting a vast population, must be dealt with before such can be introduced Communal organization, however, for government purposes, as regards census and cadastre, and the ensuant effects on revenue and conscription, is very important.

Courts of Assize.—As I mentioned above, Courts of Assize, in my humble opinion, seem an excellent suggestion, and one that, if the officials be well paid and looked after, may possibly deal an effectual blow to the local influence that is so banefully paramount in the country.

Christian Officials.—Hitherto all Christian functionaries have been carefully excluded from the Executive, and there is great complaint among the Arabs on the same score, but it must be admitted that the Christian members of the local Courts are much to blame for their own want of influence, and their tacit acceptance of the position of dummies.

While Turkish is the official language of the country, the Armenians in many places make a great mistake to attach so much importance to instruction in ancient as well as modern Armenian, to the prejudice of Turkish. Over and over again I have heard Her Majesty's Representatives give the soundest advice to different sects of Christians on the subject. In certain places, as Marash, Kaisarieh, and Aintab, it is not the case.

Public Works and Public Instruction.—The excellency of the next measure, which assigns 10 per cent. of local revenues to public instruction and public works, appears beyond doubt. The Vali here has informed me that instructions to this effect have been received, and this concession is a practical acceptance of two of the demands (Nos. 3 and 21, Blue Book No. 1, 1880, pp. 112-114) of the Aleppo Assembly convened in 1879. I would, however, venture to call your Excellency's attention to the great need of competent and incorruptible administrators of these grants, and point to the vast sums that have been fruitlessly expended in European and Asiatic Turkey for want of honest, competent, and responsible officials, and a really public audit of accounts. With the existing system of "prestation" or forced labour (four days a year from every man), Turkey might, under able administration, already have had as fine roads as are to be found.

New Laws for Vilayets.—The next paragraph merely contains a promise, but I would venture to suggest to your Excellency the advisability of insertion in it of sufficiently elastic regulations for the special requirements of the very differently constituted provinces to receive full scope. I would also venture to remark that, in my humble opinion, gendarmerie, Assize Courts, and judicial reform, and public works, are primarily the most important points, as applying specially to all classes and interests; the large towns are already enormously ahead of the rural population as regards security, justice, and education, while the immediate concession of constitutional privileges, communal organization, and education, &c., to the rural population, are, I opine, of secondary importance to security, destruction of local influence, cheap and prompt justice, and the taxation of individuals.

I would respectfully call your Excellency's attention to the omission of allusion to two points, which, at the risk of unnecessarily repeating what I have so often written, I would state appear to me the most essential causes of the present chaotic state of the administration—these are corruption and personal responsibility. The first of these has completely succeeded in vitiating a system which avowedly (though possessed of grave defects) comprises many excellent laws and enactments; it permeates every department, and until effectually dealt with bids fair to obviate and nullify the advantages of any innovations.

The absence of the second, which is intimately connected with and dependent on the first, is, and it may be fairly assumed will be, equally prejudicial in its effects. Till honesty be as compulsory, detection as damning, and success as dependent on merit, as at any rate is the average case in other countries, the value of any new institutions will be so enormously discounted as to render them comparatively worthless.

Armenian Complaints.—I must freely admit that the exaggerated version given by the Armenians of a recent occurrence at Amasia, which was carefully examined by Captain Stewart and myself, with the additional benefit of the assistance of the resident German Vice-Consul, fully warrants Abédine Pacha's assertion, and must add that this tendency to give a political significance to ordinary crimes has occurred very frequently within my own experience.

Numerical Proportion of Armenians to Moslems.—As regards the proportion of Armenians in the provinces mentioned, I find, on comparing the tables and figures given me by Baker Pasha, Major Trotter, C.B., and others, as well as from those of the late Consul Taylor, the following Turkish official figures (not of recent date), male population, for districts mentioned:—

Proportion of Moslems to Armenians (Nestorians and Greeks deducted from other Tables)	3·85 : 1
Proportion of Moslems to total Christian males	3·3 : 1

CONSUL TAYLOR.

Proportion of total Moslem to total Christian population for districts mentioned, except Sivas	2·3 : 1
Proportion of total Moslem to total Armenian population	2·8 : 1

Note.—In Sivas the proportion of Christians is undoubtedly much smaller than in the other districts; the proportion of Mr. Taylor's figures would be therefore increased if this were included.

As regards those of the districts I have travelled in, I have, in accordance with instructions, collected such statistics as I was able, for which I am principally indebted to the gentlemen mentioned above; a comparison of these, which form integral units of the aggregate from which the above proportions are derived, gives:—

Diarbekir Vilayet—	
Proportion of Moslem males, exclusive of Kizilbashes and Yezidis, to Armenians (Syrians and Jacobites not included)	$\frac{21}{11} = 4\frac{2}{11}$: 1
Ditto, ditto, Consul Taylor	$4\frac{1}{2}$: 1
Kharput, old distribution of Cazas—	
Moslem males to Armenian males	$\frac{1}{3}\frac{6}{5}$ or about 3 : 1
Kharput, new Vilayet—	
Moslem males to Armenian males	$\frac{1}{4}\frac{3}{0}$ or about 3 : 1

For Sivas I have four lists, one from the Sal Nameh, or Official Almanack for the year 1877, the latest published, which only gives the total numbers of Moslem and Christian males.

Two others, furnished me by Baker Pasha and the Vali, which are practically identical, and the fourth, giving the total Moslem and the total Christian population, furnished by the Armenian Bishop. These give for the Vilayet of Sivas the following proportions as results:—

1. Sal Nameh (Official Almanack) for year 1291 or 1877—	
Proportion of all Moslem males (including many Kizilbash or Alevis) to the total number of Christian males	3·94 : 1
2. Baker Pasha and Vali's list—	
Total Moslem males to total Christian males	4·00 : 1
(This, being later, is probably the most accurate.)	
3. Armenian Bishop's list—	
Total Moslem to total Christian population	3·46 : 1
4. Baker Pasha and Vali's list—	
Total Moslem to total Armenian males	6·18 : 1

These lists do not take account of the Moslem refugees, probably not less than 20,000 males by this time.

Abédine Pasha's figures certainly give a smaller proportion of Armenians than any of the above, *i.e.*, $\frac{17}{70}$, the first proportion, however, brought to the same denomination gives $\frac{20}{70}$, or $\frac{20.5}{70}$.* The statistics on which the above are based are most vague and unsatisfactory, as are all those in possession of the Turkish Government wherever I have been. As, however, the conscription list and an important tax are dependent on them, those in the possession of the Government are probably the best. A large percentage, not less I imagine than 10 or above 25, should be added to the Christian population. For the percental augmentation to the Moslem population I can give no estimate, but I understood Baker Pasha to say that, both in Aleppo and Diarbekir, his inquiries led him to believe that the Moslem population was enormously under-stated.

As regards the statement of population furnished to your Excellency by the Armenian Patriarch, and forwarded to me for observations, I am at a loss to understand it. The lowest estimate of the male population of the Sivas Vilayet places it at over 360,000; this Table, including 15,000 nomads, which is a gross over-estimate, makes the total population 142,000, so that even if by mistake this merely represents the number of males, it only just amounts to a third of the mean estimate, 419,000. I have shown it to the Armenian Bishop, and he concurs in thinking it is a mistake, on which he can throw no light.

I append three returns of the population: No. 1 is the latest official list; No. 3 gives total population; as I am not aware how the Bishop procured his information, or of the number of years it has taken to compile, and of the dates of its statistics, I can pass no opinion as to its trustworthiness.

In conclusion, I would apologize to your Excellency for the length at which I have written, but as from February 1879, until the end of June 1880, I was attached to different Reform Commissions, whose special duty it was to consider these very questions, I have deemed it right to record views and impressions only formed after constant discussion and conversation with those whose knowledge and experience are far greater, and better entitled to consideration than my own.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 1.—*Government Statistics.*

SIVAS SANDJAK.

	Males.
Moslem	109,356
Armenian	30,157
Greek	2,519
Catholic	962
Protestant	375
Moslem gypsies	101
Christian gypsies	10
Total	143,372

AMASIA SANDJAK.

	Males.
Moslem	76,792
Armenian	6,390
Greek	4,299
Catholic	94
Protestant	471
Moslem gypsies	151
Christian gypsies	336
Total	88,463

KARA-HISSAR SANDJAK.

	Males.
Moslem	42,168
Armenian	8,322
Greek	7,862
Total	58,350

* Major Trotter R.E., C.B., will doubtless have furnished your Excellency with far more trustworthy figures for the districts mentioned by Abédine Pasha, with the exception of that of Sivas, than I could give. Abédine Pasha, by including districts where there are not only Nestorians, Greeks, and Jacobites, as well as Armenians, but a small total Christian population, and by basing his calculation on official figures, has arrived at a very low proportion; but considering the way the actual figures have been attacked in the press, I have thought it right to give the results of such as I have been able to collect, which I can in no way guarantee.—H. C.

TOCAT SANDJAK.

	Males.
Moslem	64,328
Armenian	6,036
Greek	4,002
Jews	103
Total	74,366
Total Moslem males—	
Sivas Sandjak	109,356
Amasia Sandjak	76,792
Kara-Hissar Sandjak	42,166
Tocat Sandjak	64,328
Total	292,641
Total Armenian males—	
Sivas Sandjak	30,157
Amasia Sandjak	6,220
Kara-Hissar Sandjak	8,322
Tocat Sandjak	6,636
Total	51,535
Total Greek males—	
Sivas Sandjak	2,319
Amasia Sandjak	4,229
Kara-Hissar Sandjak	7,661
Tocat Sandjak	4,002
Total	18,211
Total Catholic males—	
Sivas Sandjak	902
Amasia Sandjak	94
Total	996
Total Protestant males—	
Sivas Sandjak	375
Amasia Sandjak	471
Total	846
Total Moslem males, including Circassians, Kizilbashes, Kurds, &c.	292,644
Total Armenian males, including Catholics, Protestants, &c.	58,347
Total Greek males	16,241
Total Christian males	71,588
Total population	364,956

No. 2.—*Population of Sivas Vilayet.*

SIVAS AND TOCAT SANDJAKS.

	Males.
Moslem	154,965
Christian	42,821
Total	197,786

Redel Askerich, 938,621 P.

AMASIA SANDJAK.

	Males.
Moslem	133,707
Christian	21,497
Total	155,204

Redel Askerich, 575,343 P.

KARA-HISSAR SANDJAK.

	Males.
Moslem	66,960
Christian	26,445
Total	93,405

Redel Askerich, 351,119 P.

TOTAL MALE POPULATION.

	Moslems.	Christians.	Redel Askerich.
	Males.	Males.	P.
Sivas and Tocat Sandjaks ..	154,965	42,851	938,621
Amasia Sandjak	133,707	21,496	575,343
Kara-Hissar Sandjak	66,960	26,445	351,119
Total	355,632	90,793	1,865,083

(Taken from the Turkish Sivas Salnameh for the year 1294.)

No. 3.—*Armenian Bishop's Table.*

TOTAL MALE AND FEMALE POPULATION, SIVAS VILAYET.

	Turks and Kizilbashes, Male and Female.	Christians, Male and Female.	Kurds, Male and Female.	Circassians, Male and Female.	Total.
Sivas, Hafik, Koteghir, Yeni Han, and Kangal Cazas and their nahiés	55,805	38,350	17,100	12,600	124,246
Tocat and its dependencies	23,624	13,500	9,148	18,000	64,272
Darendeh and its villages	15,000	2,500	1,422	Nil.	18,922
Divrik and its nahiés	43,278	15,060	2,000	Nil.	60,338
Gurun and its villages	7,900	8,830	1,500	530	18,760
Turhi and its villages	19,272	10,000	Nil.	3,000	32,272
Azizieh and its nahiés	44,944	8,000	5,500	28,500	86,944
Amasia Sandjak with its 956 villages.	210,000	52,000	20,000	26,000	308,000
Kara-Hissar with its 668 villages ..	117,000	53,000	11,920	Nil.	181,920
	536,913	201,245	68,698	88,820	895,676
Total Moslem population, male and female					794,431
Total Christian population, male and female					201,245

No. 89.

Vice-Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 12. Political.)

Damascus, August 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the duplicate of my despatch of this date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting a fight between Circassians and Bedouins near Kuneitrah in the Hauran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 15.)

Damascus, August 20, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour in former reports to mention the position of the Circassian Colony located at Kuneitrah, in the Mutessarifik of the Hauran, south-west of Mount Hermon, and the dislike entertained of them by the half-civilized tribes around, and notably by the Arabs "el Fadl," who possess from time immemorial the grazing grounds of the Hudé and the plains of the Jaulan in the vicinity, and who regard the strangers as interlopers and trespassers upon their rightful inheritance.

Midhat Pasha's protection of and sympathy with the Circassians have hitherto sufficed to limit the antipathy existing between the immigrants and the Arabs to petty collisions, with here and there the loss of a life or two.

On the 15th instant, however, a Circassian, in a dispute with an Arab of the

"Fudl" about the right to water cattle at a spring, shot the latter's cow and was at once shot dead by the Arab. The Circassian's complaint to the authorities of the Kaimakamlik of Kuneitrah having proved futile, the chief functionaries being absent, they assembled their men and attacked, on foot, armed with gun, pistol, and dagger, the "Fudl" Arabs two hours west of Kuneitrah. The Arabs mounted, and armed with lance charged the Circassians, received their fire, and repulsed them before they had time to reload. Several hundred men seem to have been engaged. Although much greater loss of life is reported, I believe the Circassians lost about 14 killed and 10 wounded; the Arabs about 10 killed and 8 wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 90.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 319.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 3, 1880.*

I AM taking advantage of the presence here of Colonel Wilson and Major Trotter to discuss with them at length all the important questions which are at present pending with reference to Asia Minor, and to acquaint myself as fully as possible with the state of their districts.

Amongst other questions we have conferred on the subject of the relative numerical proportions of the different populations inhabiting Asia Minor, and on the available materials for testing the statistics which have been put in by various persons. Colonel Wilson and Major Trotter are closely examining the figures given by Abédine Pasha and by the Armenian Patriarch respectively, by the aid of such data as they have collected at various times.

Colonel Wilson has addressed me a despatch on the subject, a copy of which I inclose.

I have written to the Armenian Patriarch asking for statistics relative to the Vilayet of Adana, with regard to which his tabular statement gave no information, and I have also called his attention to the immense discrepancy between his figures for the Vilayet of Sivas and those derived from all other sources. I believe that his Beatitude must have included a portion of the vilayet only, as the total population, according to his statement, is 142,000 only, while the Armenian Bishop of Sivas gives the figures at 895,682.

I have also written to the Catholic Armenian Patriarch asking him for statistics as to his co-religionists.

I inclose a copy of his reply, and of the tables which he has sent me.

In a few days I shall be able to forward Major Trotter's figures to your Lordship.

It appears that a very considerable amount of information can be brought together before an actual census is taken, and it will probably be advisable to act on the suggestion contained in Colonel Wilson's despatch No. 56 of the 1st instant relative to testing the official figures.

At the same time, I must report my opinion that it will not only be necessary to pursue a mode of calculation which will carry conviction to all impartial persons: it will beexpedient, if possible, to proceed in such a manner that the Armenians themselves will admit the process to be fair and satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 90.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 56.)
Sir, *Buyukdéré, September 1, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 54 of the 24th August last, I have now the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a table giving certain statistics of the Sivas Vilayet, as regards population, which have been obtained from eight different sources.

The numbers supplied by the Armenian Patriarch are evidently wrong; the truth

probably lies between the numbers supplied by the Armenian Bishop of Sivas and those furnished by Abédine and Baker Pashas. If this view be correct, the proportion of Christians to Moslems is 1 to 3·7.

The refugees who have entered the Sivas Vilayet during the last three years, and who now number about 50,000, must be added to the Moslem population in the lists.

I would beg to suggest, for your Excellency's consideration, that statistics be obtained of the Vilayets of Trebizond and Adana, and of the Sandjak of Kaisariyeh, each of which contains a considerable Armenian and Greek population. I would also beg to draw attention to the large Greek population on the western and southern shores of Asia Minor.

Should your Excellency consider it desirable to test the numbers in any way, there would, I believe, be no difficulty in doing so. Certain nahiés or villages in the Sivas Vilayet might be selected as test cases, and the numbers contained in the Government books and those of the Armenian Bishop compared with each other, and with results obtained on the ground by Lieutenant Chermside and Mr. Richards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 90.

SIVAS VILAYET.—Statistics of Population.

	Christians.	Relative Proportion.	Moslems.	Total.
Statistics according to the list supplied by the Armenian Patriarch to Her Majesty's Ambassador	82,000	1–1·3	80,000	162,000
Statistics supplied to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson by the Armenian Bishop of Sivas in January 1880	201,245	1–3·4	694,437	895,682
Statistics supplied to Lieutenant Chermside by the Armenian Bishop of Sivas in August 1880 ..	201,245	1–3·4	694,431	895,676
Statistics supplied to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson by Abédine Pasha in January 1880, obtained by doubling the males	143,171	1–4·0	584,601	727,772
Statistics supplied to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson confidentially by a Government clerk in January 1880, by doubling the males	136,492	1–4·2	578,106	714,598
Statistics supplied by Government to Lieutenant Chermside in August 1880, by doubling the males	143,176	1–5·1	729,872	873,048
Statistics obtained from the Sivas Almanack for 1878, by doubling the males	131,396	1–5·9	711,264	892,660
Statistics according to Baker Pasha, obtained by doubling the males	140,732	1–4·0	567,818	708,550

N.B.—The Moslem refugees, in number about 50,000, do not appear to be included in any of the lists.

Inclosure 3 in No. 90.

Monseigneur Hassoun to Mr. Goschen.

Excellence, *Patriarcat Arménien Catholique, Péra, le 2 Septembre,* 1880.

EN réponse à la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'écrire sous la date du 30 du mois dernier, je m'empresse de satisfaire son désir touchant quelques données relatives au nombre des Arméniens Catholiques dans les vilayets qu'elle m'avait indiqués dans la dite lettre.

Votre Excellence me demande des données exactes; je dois, à mon très-grand regret, lui dire à ce propos qu'aucun dénombrement revêtu d'un caractère authentique et réel n'existant pas jusqu'à ce jour, je ne puis que lui fournir des chiffres plus ou moins approximatifs. Je les consigne dans la note que j'inclus sous ce pli.

Pour déférer au désir de votre Excellence en ce qui concerne d'autres renseignements à ce sujet, j'ai cru devoir y ajouter séparément le nombre des Catholiques de

certains rites, autres que l'Arménien, de même que l'état et la condition de tous les Catholiques indigènes des provinces indiquées.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) ANTOINE PIERRE IX HASSOUN,
Patriarche Arménien Catholique de Cilicie.

Inclosure 4 in No. 90.

Note.

Arméniens Catholiques dans le Vilayet d'Erzéroum	10,000
Arméniens Catholiques dans les deux Vilayets de Van et de Bitlis (avec les Mutessarifliks de Mouch et de Séert)	4,000
Arméniens Catholiques dans le Vilayet de Sivas	10,000
Arméniens Catholiques dans le Vilayet de Karpouth (avec le Mutessarifilik de Malathia)	6,000
Arméniens Catholiques dans le Vilayet de Diarbékir (avec le Mutessarifilik de Marache)	12,000
Arméniens Catholiques dans le Vilayet d'Alep (avec le Mutessarifilik de Marache) ..	12,000
Arméniens Catholiques dans le Vilayet d'Adana	3,000
	57,000

N.B.—Dans les mêmes vilayets se trouvent environ—	
Chaldéens Catholiques dans les deux Vilayets de Van et Bitlis	5,000
Chaldéens Catholiques dans le Vilayet de Diarbékir	8,000
Syriens Catholiques dans le Vilayet de Diarbékir	5,000
Melchites Catholiques dans le Vilayet d'Alep	8,000
Syriens et Maronites Catholiques dans le Vilayet d'Alep	7,000
	33,000

Les Catholiques indigènes des susdites provinces sont, presque tous, propriétaires de terrains, et s'occupent généralement d'agriculture, de commerce, et d'industrie.

No. 90*.

Consul Billiotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 11, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Trebizond, September* 10, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

GOVERNMENT transport "Erserijed" seen in the offing steering westward, with Laz emigrants aboard.

No. 91.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 12, 7·20 P.M.)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 12, 1880, 12·2 P.M.

MY despatch No. 222.

With reference to communications from me to Captain Clayton respecting collection of taxes in famine-stricken districts, and informing him of what had passed here on the subject, I learn from Vice-Consul that the Vali has informed him that he has received no new instructions to press for arrears in Turkoman districts; in fact impossible and useless to do so. Vice-Consul adds that, within the last few days, thirteen Christian villages have been stripped by Kurds in Hakkiari. I shall immediately bring this to the notice of the Porte.

No. 92.

Consul Billiotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 28. Political.)
My Lord, *Tcharchamba, August* 23, 1880.

THE western part of the district of Uniah, extending along the sea-shore, which I visited on my way to Therme, is a low marshy plain of about 3 miles in width, only inhabited by about 150 Circassian families.

This plain, which gradually widens westward, extends over half the district of Therme, the southern part of which is as mountainous and of the same aspect as that of Uniah.

The district of Therme, which I crossed from north to south-west, and from south to north-west, contains ninety-six native and forty-three Circassian villages, inhabited by—

Mussulmans, of whom more than half are Circassians	9,191
Greeks	224
Armenians	768
Total Noufous	10,183

(or about 22,000 souls).

Three hundred Abazian families that settled here in 1878 returned last year to Russia, but were lately succeeded by other sixty families, that came from the Vilayet of Siwas, and who, natives hope, will likewise go back to their native land, they having proved more troublesome than the Circassians themselves.

Only fifty-seven families of Lazes have immigrated in this district, but with the same inconvenience as in other districts for the inhabitants of the villages in which they were located, as well as for the remainder of the population. They have had, besides, to pay from 500 piastres to 1,000 piastres per village in order to procure for Lazes means of conveyance to Niksar.

Christians settled here at the same epoch as in the neighbouring district of Uniah, and only few Mussulmans immigrated from other districts.

The fore-mentioned plain, which is very fertile, and produces rice, as well as Indian corn, is exclusively inhabited by native Mussulmans and by Circassians. But few of the former possess adequate lands for their wants.

A certain Tshahadar Oglu Hadji Mehmed Effendi, who is owner of nearly half this plain, and a few other Effendis, who hold smaller estates, get for their lands one quarter on the produce of Indian corn and one-third on that of rice. The average yield of the first is 35 to 1, that of the latter 25 to 1.

When these tenants are in want of money, they obtain it from the land-owners, on the condition of returning it in agricultural produce at from 30 to 40 per cent. below the market prices. Any balance due after harvest time is converted into money at the highest prices of the day, and again into rice or Indian corn, with the same reduction of 30 or 40 per cent. on current prices. It is seldom that peasants can free themselves after they have once run into debt.

Properly speaking, there is no compulsory labour, but all the above-mentioned tenants, as well as most of the Mussulman land-owners in the plain, in order to evade the displeasure of Tshahadar, who is all-powerful, as I shall explain later on, work without remuneration, on an average, a week in the year, on the extensive lands which he thus cultivates free of expense on his exclusive account. The same is done for a few other influential Effendis, mostly related to Tshahadar.

In the southern part of the district Mussulmans, as well as Christians, are nearly all land-owners, and their condition, though their lands yield only 15 to 1, is far superior in all respects to that of the inhabitants of the plain.

The total number of Christians who this year departed for Russia is six Armenian families from Vulumdagh and eleven Greeks from Djihar. Four of the former, together with thirty other families, had arrived from the Vilayet of Siwas for the purpose of emigrating. The latter, and some members of the four families that departed for Russia, are still here, waiting to be allowed to embark. In the meanwhile, they are expending the little money which they possess without any hope of seeing their position ameliorated, as they have no lands to sow.

Fifteen other families from this district proceeded to the sea-shore for embarkation, but were prevented to depart.

When, in June last, the Armenians of Siwas were embarking, they were despoiled

by Lazes of 114 medjidiés, and one of the immigrants, whose family were on board, was detained and compelled to procure and give besides thirty-seven medjidiés and a cow. This man, whose name is Karakiahagla Arakel, is still here, while his wife and children are in Russia.

The Armenians at Therme speak of emigrating with more determination than elsewhere, though they appear to be better off than their co-religionists in other districts.

They especially complained of cattle lifting on a very large scale, and of other robberies and exactions, but, singular enough, added that since a year they suffer less than before in these respects.

They say that they have not sufficient lands, and seem to believe that the fertility of the soil in Russia is wonderful, having mentioned to me, with conviction, that the average yield is 250 for 1.

They also are under the impression that their religious authorities, who are using their best endeavours to prevent their departure, have only in view not to be deprived of the yearly income which they derive from them.

Besides the eleven Greek families that departed from Djilar, eight others, numbering thirty-seven souls, from the same village, embarked on board a craft belonging to a certain Temel Reis, of Rizah, and commanded by a Konloglu Mehmed, who, two days later, landed them at the place of embarkation, after having deprived them of their money, consisting of 65 medjidiés and 20*l.*, as well as of every other article of furniture which they possessed. They have not sued the Reis in question, and are now in utter destitution.

The Greeks of Therme do not seem inclined to emigrate; those who departed and intended to depart from the village of Djilar were actuated by private motives. Having purchased lands from an Armenian for 25,000 piastres, and paid, as agreed, part of the money in gold, they insisted for completing the payment in cultues, which were issued in the interval. They applied to the local authorities, who, in order to benefit thereby, delivered to them worthless title-deeds. The Greeks expended in bribes nearly as much as would have paid for the lands, and ultimately did not obtain them.

I met in the village of Tshangueriish a Greek priest, Papa Antoni, whose father, also a priest, Hadji Papa Giorgi, of Kirg Tépé, Unieh, accompanied to Russia the eight families that departed from that district in May last. He showed me a letter, dated 30th May (11th June), in which Papa Giorgi narrates their sufferings during their passage to Russia.

Temel Reis, of Rizah, the same whose name I mentioned before, took from them all the money they possessed, amounting to 96*l.*, and refused to land their effects before a further sum was paid. They managed, however, to obtain them through the interference of the Russian authorities.

Hadji Papa Giorgi says that the village of Capartinga, near Novo Russiski, where they are, is a paradise, but strongly advises his son not to follow him before he again hears from him, and especially not to embark on board a Turkish boat. But, notwithstanding this warning, Papa Antoni assured me that there are fifty-two families in the district of Unieh only waiting for an opportunity to depart for Russia.

In presence of the facts that I have just mentioned, the question arises whether, all things considered, the prohibition to depart which exists at present should continue to be enforced.

There is a number of families, such as the thirty Armenian from Siwas, the eight Greek at Djilar, and others particularly mentioned in preceding Reports, that are placed in such positions that nothing short of emigration will relieve them from their present distress. Such of the Christians who are determined to depart will do so whenever they find an opportunity for carrying out their intentions; in the meanwhile, they are subject to useless privations. If they embark clandestinely, they run the risk of being plundered, as were those who embarked before them. It is true that, if permission is granted, several families will depart at once, and their example may be followed by many others; but the presence of individuals who made up their mind to leave the country can only augment the number of malcontents, and if there are among the pretended emigrants some who avail themselves of the existing prohibition only for grumbling, its withdrawal will do away with the pretext. A number of Christians will certainly leave owing to complete want or inadequacy of lands, or to other motives; but after what I have seen and heard, I cannot help thinking that several of them are only speaking of emigrating themselves in order to encourage others to do so with a view to have more lands at their disposal.

Christians complain of receiving no protection on the part of the Government, and of being subject to extortions of all kinds, and so they are. At Oulundagh, a sum of 4,800 piastres, paid of the arrears of taxation, which were remitted by the Sultan in 1875, is claimed over again. They also complain that, owing to the influence of rich land-owners, especially of Tshahadar, the apportionment of the emlak (property tax) falls heavily on the poorer class of agriculturers. At the village of Kadjamu-Bachi, an Armenian, named Papamiuas Oglou Carabet, who three years ago purchased lands from the Government for 900 piastres, is paying 300 piastres yearly, the rate being 4 per 1,000; the real tax should have been 4 piastres.

Mussulmans are liable to similar and to many other extortions from which Christians are exempt.

Tshahadar Oglou Hadji Mehmed Effendi, who has been on several occasions, and is even at the present moment, Acting Kaimakam, seems to be the evil spirit of the district. There is no imaginable villany that is not laid to his charge by Christians as well as by Mussulmans, not only of the district of Therme, but also by those of the neighbouring ones of Tchurchamba and Unieh. He is so dreaded that no one dared to give me complete information; and this is easily conceived, he now being in power. However, sufficient cases have been related to me to give an accurate idea of his character.

He is said to be in league with the thieves in this district, especially with the Circassian, Ahmed Bey, and his complicity to be proved by his being in possession of a number of stolen cattle.

On the death of well-to-do Mussulmans he claims imaginary debts, and, on no other title but pretended accounts, takes possession of their property, as was the case with that of Guelichoglu Ahmed, of the village of Kelidi.

The property of Mussulman orphans, which, according to the law, is sold at public auction on the death of their fathers, is bought by him at low prices, no one daring to bid after him; but he does not even pay the whole of the purchase money. Two years since he thus purchased the lands of Kamberoglu Mustafa, of Housun-bachi, for 19,000 piastres, of which he only paid 10,000 piastres, exacting from his widow a receipt for the whole sum. A year ago he likewise purchased the property of the late Judge, Mehmed Oglu Mehmed, of Ustkutuki, but only gave part of the sum, the remainder of which his widow has hitherto been uselessly claiming.

Said Oglou Pasha, of Serai Keui, having died insolvent, his property was sold six months since at public auction, and purchased by Tshahadar, who has not yet reimbursed, and very likely will never reimburse, the creditors.

On the death of Mussulmans he sometimes uses his influence, and obtains testimony to the effect that, during his life-time, the deceased had sold him his property.

Tshahadar's nephew being the "tapoi mentouri," the necessary title-deeds are soon made out in his name, as was the case with the property of Abdulryak, of Kelidi.

I do not speak of other extortions similar to those which are practised by the class of Mussulmans in whose hands rests the real power in these districts, but I cannot pass under silence two kinds of extortions which are peculiar to Tshahadar.

He exacts from Mussulmans a marriage fee, varying from 5*l.* to 50*l.*, according to the standing of the bridegroom. He only consented to the marriage of the daughter of Keshmiroglou, of Therme, on receiving five fields of a value of 50*l.* If any one should exempt himself from paying the fee in question, he exacts money under some pretext or other. Such was the case on the marriage of the daughter of Tsakiroglou Ibrahim, of Billamandj, from whom he extorted 6*l.*, under the pretext that she was betrothed to him.

The second practice of Tshahadiroglou is still more extraordinary. It consists in taking himself as wives girls who are reputed for their beauty, of whom he married no less than ten within the last three years. Two or three months after marriage he sends them back to their homes, and whenever they are asked in marriage by other parties he gets from 10*l.* to 15*l.* in order to grant permission.

Such was described to me to be the man who has often been, and at this moment is, Acting Governor at Therme, where, even during the tenure of office of Government officials, he rules at his will.

Within the present year Tshahadar's brother-in-law Hamdi, together with a certain Maloglou Ahmed, a malefactor of the worst kind, murdered, in broad daylight, a Mussulman proceeding from Tchurchamba to his village, and carried off his wife, whom they released a few days after. They were apprehended and lodged in prison at

Samsoun, from whence Hamdi was released through Tshahadar's influence. However, he was imprisoned again by the present Mutessarif, and, it is said, obtained his liberty on paying 100*l.* Hamdi is now Collector of the Tithe at Therme. Muloglou escaped from prison, and I have heard it rumoured since my departure from Unjah that, to evade being apprehended again, he likewise paid 100*l.* to the same Mutessarif.

Besides Tshahadaroglou, there are in the district of Therme ten or twelve Aghas or Effendis also oppressing the Mussulman population, but on a much more reduced scale.

The police force at Therme consists of seven gendarmes and four zaptiehs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 93.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 29. Political.)
Samsoon, August 31, 1880.

My Lord,

THE district of Teharchamba begins at a few miles from the left bank of the Thermé Tsaï, and extends towards Samsoon as far as Kara Boghazsoo. It comprises the low plain formed by the Rivers Yeshil Irmok (Iris) and Charmanli Soo (Syeus), and the hills which, gradually rising to the south, attain the chain of the Mason Dagh.

There are 273 villages, whose population is reckoned to be about: 3,000 Mussulman (native) families, 716 Greek, 1,828 Armenian, 5,000 Circassian, 130 Abazian, and 140 Laz; total, 10,823 families, or about 55,000 souls.

Native Mussulmans, who formerly only inhabited the elevated plateaux in the southern part of this district, settled by degrees on the lower hills, where they were followed some 150 years ago by Greeks from Gumushané, and later by Armenians from Hamsheen and other parts of Anatolia.

With the exception of the town of Teharchamba, which derives its name from a market held there on Wednesdays, and contains about 1,400 families, 600 of whom are Christians, the plain, though very fertile, but being insalubrious, was uninhabited until the arrival of Circassians after the Crimean War.

There is in this district a very complicated land question, which I shall try to explain as far as possible, and which concerns more than two-thirds of the native agricultural population—that is to say, 2,500 Mussulmans, 1,500 Armenian, and 500 Greek families, about 10 per cent. of whom only are owners of small plots of land.

It is stated by natives that Mussulmans and Christians had become land-owners in force of "tapoos" delivered to them by the Sipahis, and that about fifty years ago they were reduced to serfage by a certain Osman Pasha, who, being Governor of all the coast extending from the Bosphorus to the Caucasus, was all-powerful. On taking possession of all the lands of Christians, as well as of Mussulmans, he imposed a tax of 15 piastres per family, which, together with a further sum for "haratch" (capitation), which the former directly paid to the Government, constituted all the taxation to which they were subject.

After Osman Pasha's death his heirs obtained a Firman from Sultan Abdul Medjid recognizing their right of property on 82,598 donums of land on the coast extending between Bafra and Kerassond, and in which are comprised the farms that give rise to the present question.

Osman Pasha's heirs converted the tax of 15 piastres per family into a rent of 3½ piastres per kilé or donum, and gradually increased it to 5½ piastres, besides charging them, towards the year 1261, with the tax on property called "salian." In the meantime, the Porte established the tithe to which the peasants in question were naturally compelled to submit, though they maintain that in consequence of the position in which they stood all Government imposts should be borne by the land-owners.

Not only this, but as the population increased and brought under cultivation lands which were not comprised in the grant made by Sultan Abdul Medjid, Osman Pasha's heirs likewise claimed rent on them. This pretension, which was resisted by the peasants, gave rise to a question for the settlement of which the Porte issued, so far back as twenty years since (6th Djemaziul-Evel, 1276), an Emir-Namé, ordering the Governor of Trebizond to investigate the case and hand to the peasants such of the

lands as exceeded the grant, as well as those that they would title after that date, and exact payment from them. This order was never executed.

In 1280 Osman Pasha's heirs, instead of 5½ piastres, claimed 8 piastres per kilé, which peasants consented to pay on condition that the tax on property ("salian") should be borne by the former. But the eldest son of Osman Pasha, with whom the agreement was made, having died, the increased rent, as well as the "salian," were exacted from the peasants, who protested against the proceeding.

Eventually, from serfs they became tenants, in which condition they have hitherto lived, paying 8 piastres per kilé rent and the tax on property. Nominally, they cannot be evicted from the farm, though they may abandon it at their will, and are entitled on their departure to an indemnification on valuation of the houses, premises, and plantations belonging to them.

In 1288, that is about nine years since, the tenants in question availed themselves of the mutation which was effected in the assessment of the tax on property, and which since is called "emlak," to try and evade its being charged to them. Nourd Bey, of Uniah, who was and still is the only surviving son of Osman Pasha, resisted the demand, on the plea that 54,700 piastres which had been fixed as "emlak" for his farms exceeded his revenue therefrom, which he stated to amount to 30,600 piastres a-year. However, the peasants contend that in reality it exceeds 1,000*l.*

Ever since that date the greatest confusion has existed in this district owing to both parties refusing to pay the tax in question. In some cases it is owing for the last eight or nine years. The Kaimakam of Teharchamba told me that the arrears due under this head amount to nearly 10,000*l.* That, with few exceptions, the peasants should be able to pay these arrears is out of the question. They also availed themselves of the circumstance to evade the payment of rent to Nourd Bey, whom they consider as no longer possessing any lands, put off those which originally were ceded to their forefathers, they say, having become barren rocks by the action of the rain, and part having been sold by him at different times, both of which arguments should be proved.

The tenants offer to satisfy the claims of the Government with regard to property tax on the condition of receiving title-deeds for the lands on which they consider to have a right. At their request the Porte has again issued an order, dated 3rd Djemaziul-Evel, 1294 (1878), for the settlement of the claim, but which, like the first, has remained a dead letter.

However, the solution of the question is one of the utmost importance for a great portion of the inhabitants of the districts of Teharchamba and Samsoon, who are now sued by the Government for the payment of the arrears of taxation, then by Nourd Bey for that of rent. They are ordered to appear before the Courts of Justice; they repaid in town and are kept waiting but not heard, or remanded, and the same thing occurs over and over again.

In May last the Muktars and Agas of some Mussulman villages were imprisoned until they gave recognizances for the payment of property tax and rent. This example intimidated the other Mussulman tenants, who subscribed similar documents. The fear of increasing Christian emigration prevented the local authorities to act with the same rigour against them.

During the last ten years, from fifteen to twenty families have yearly departed for Russia. Within the last twelvemonth as many as sixty-five Armenian and twenty-five Greek have embarked for the same destination. Many more would have left had not permission been withheld from them. Fifteen of the above-mentioned families clandestinely embarked a few weeks ago from a desert spot on the sea-coast.

It would seem, however, that in all cases a number of Christian families must leave the country, owing, they say, to the lands under cultivation, besides being insufficient for the increased population, having exhausted most of their producing power, and there being no more fallow lands susceptible of tillage. The average yield in the mountainous parts of this district is hardly ten to one.

But, to hear Christians, should the land question remain unsettled a general exodus will take place.

There are here the same complaints as everywhere else on the part of Christians as well as of Mussulmans. These grievances have thus been detailed to me in a memorandum handed to me by the Armenians at Teharchamba:—

1. The land question as above explained.
2. Extortions on the tithe. A usual practice, besides others, at Teharchamba and Samsoon, is to postpone the collection of the tithe in kind in order to obtain a bribe for receiving it, or to compel peasants after they dispose of all their produces to reim-

burse it at high rate in cash, which last they borrow at ruinous rates from rich native Christians and Mussulmans.

3. Cattle-lifting, and other depredations, even murders, perpetrated by Circassians and other malefactors. However, like at Therme, peasants state that within the last twelve months there is an amelioration under this head.

4. Exaction of the "badel askerié" (military tax), due by Christians who emigrate to Russia from those of their co-religionists who continue to remain here.

5. Collection of the arrears of the taxes which were remitted by the Sultan in 1875, and which in some cases have already been paid.

6. Yearly exaction of 7½ piastres per family in the villages of Tcharchamba for the maintenance of a wooden bridge in the town.

7. Bribery, without which nothing can be obtained in any Government office.

8. Exacting a second time nearly one quarter of the tithe, for which the delivery of receipts is first postponed under different pretexts, and ultimately denied.

9. Assumption of power by a class of Mussulmans, who, in conspiracy with some Christians, oppress the poorer classes, and, besides treating them like dogs, extort from them more than the taxation levied by the Government. Rich Mussulmans and Christians exempt themselves from the payment of taxation, and the former as well of the military service. All those now at the head of public affairs should be removed, and replaced by such honest men as may be discovered in other classes.

10. In the present state of things, no more than 20 per cent. of the inhabitants are in a position to gain a livelihood; the remainder are only looking for the means to remove to Russia, though, as it has occurred, they are plundered and their wives and daughters ravished under their eyes during the sea voyage.

11. Brutal treatment and extortions by zaptiehs, for whom even emigration serves as a pretext. Last year zaptieh Kurd Hussein pretended to have been sent in the village of Kabadjeviz to convey to prison peasants suspected to intend to emigrate, and extorted only 8*l.* from the village, though he wanted 10*l.* Another zaptieh, Hadji Veliagla Redjeb, arrested Murasoglou Minas, of the village of Kabadjeviz, and Baglas of that of Keshdéré, under the pretext that they were about to depart for Russia, and only released them on their paying 60 medjidiés. A certain Mustechioglou Hadji Menteck, who was appointed to prevent emigration last year, allowed eight families to embark for Russia on their giving him 60 medjidiés, and to the zaptiehs who accompanied him 4*l.* and 4 medjidiés.

12. Insecurity of ownership for the little land of which they happen to become possessed, and which is often wrested from them, notwithstanding that they hold regular title-deeds.

With the exception of the local taxation of 7½ piastres paid per family for the bridge at Tcharchamba, the other grievances are common to all other districts, in addition to special ones which I have separately mentioned for some of them, such as Beys, Agas, Effendis, Lazes, &c. From the latter, however, the districts of Tcharchamba and Samsoon have had less to suffer, the inhabitants having only had to erect a house per village, and to sow, as at Therme, Uniah, &c., one kilé seed per ten yokes of oxen.

Together with the forementioned causes of dissatisfaction, there is another motive which prompts Christians to emigrate to Russia. The deeply-rooted idea prevailed amongst them, as well as amongst Mussulmans, that Russia would have soon taken possession of all the sea-coast extending as far as Samsoon inclusive; and the hope of seeing ameliorated their condition, the vexatious character of which they still amplified, hitherto induced them to submit with a certain resignation to the evils they endured. But, the result of the late war not having answered their long-cherished hopes, the realization of which has been indefinitely postponed, they now consider that nothing remains for them but to go to Russia, as she has not succeeded to extend her rule as far as the country in which they live.

This accounts for the general movement of emigration which this year has taken place along this coast.

The liabilities which they are under at Tcharchamba and Samsoon is another strong motive urging those in straitened circumstances to clandestinely remove to Russia, as by so doing they escape the disagreements of the position in which they are now placed. Besides, they have here such exaggerated notions of the favourable condition in which they will stand in Russia, that it is not astonishing that they should be anxious to remove thither. It is hardly possible to admit that they should have conceived themselves similar ideas, if they had not been suggested to them in some way or other.

The Russian Consul of Trebizond hastened to follow me to Ordu, but did not push further; that of Samsoon also intends to make a tour in the neighbouring districts.

In my humble opinion, it is of the utmost importance that the land question should be settled without delay, though all the pretensions of the peasants are inadmissible. For, leaving aside Christians who might emigrate in some way or other to Russia, there is an important number of Mussulmans whose position, it was repeated to me by all Christians in the districts I visited, is still worse than their own, and who have not the hope to escape from their unenviable position by removing to Russia. But the question cannot be settled by the local authorities; a Special Commission should be sent from the capital.

Besides the justice which would be rendered to either party, the Porte has a material interest in the settlement of the affair. So far as I have been able to ascertain, besides the lands in contestation, peasants hold extensive arable lands, for which, in order to obtain regular title-deeds, they are willing to pay a moderate sum it is true (the soil being of poor quality), but which even at 10 piastres per donum would represent a rather important sum.

I cannot conclude my Report without saying a few words on the Circassian emigrants, of whom there are about 60,000 in the Sandjak of Djanik (Samsoon).

That part of the plain at Therme and Tcharchamba where they inhabit, and which I crossed, is as well cultivated as can be imagined. They have brought under cultivation an immense expanse of land, and are yearly extending their tillage. The soil is very productive, yielding from 35 to 40 for 1. Circassians furnish nearly the whole Indian corn which is exported from Samsoon. The commercial importance of Tcharchamba, Bafra, &c., whether for exportation or importation, has more than doubled since their settlement on this coast.

Until lately they were very troublesome, but, as already stated, within the last twelve months natives have had much less to complain of them.

In general they are very industrious, though there certainly are amongst them characters of the worst description who are encouraged in their nefarious propensities by some of their Chiefs, owing to the profits they derive themselves therefrom. But they can be controlled by well-disposed Beys of their race.

Last year Ismail Hakki Pasha, the ex-Mutessarif of Samsoon, tried the experiment. He entrusted to three of them the control of their countrymen. To Sherif Effendi, the country between Somsoon and Tcharchamba; to Mehmed Ali Bey, that beyond; and to Hadji Hussein Bey the district of Therme; and the consequence was the relative tranquillity which now prevails. But, naturally, these Beys have drawn upon themselves the enmity of other Chiefs to whose depredations they put a stop; and Mehmed Ali Bey, whom I saw at Tcharchamba, assured me that his life was in jeopardy.

If the temporary mission entrusted to them by the ex-Mutessarif of Samsoon, and obtained such signal success, should receive the formal sanction of the Porte, their position being enhanced in the eyes of their countrymen would enable them to perform more efficaciously the duties entrusted to them, provided that they receive efficient support on the part of the local authorities. Notorious bad characters, who had been arrested by Hadji Hussein Bey, of Therme, and sent to Samsoon for imprisonment, were released a month ago without trial.

It is not with the ten gendarmes and the eight zaptiehs, who constitute the police force in the district of Tcharchamba, that order can be maintained there.

Owing to the action of the three above-mentioned Beys, and to that of Bekir Bey, also a Circassian, who was appointed at about the same epoch Kaimakam at Bafra, and who was lately dismissed to the great regret of the population, the Circassians in the district of Djanik (Samsoon) have been reduced to a state of subordination which hitherto was unknown.

It would be very regretable, indeed, if they should revert to their former practices owing to negligence on the part of the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 94.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 641.) *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1880, 3·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram received from Vice-Consul Gardner, Poti:—

"Greek brig 'St. Peter,' 200 tons register, under English flag, arrived Batoum with 1,000 Abkhasian men, women, and children, without passports or provisions; condition deplorable. Russian authorities decline to receive them. Vessel dismantled and detained."

Ask Russian Government to have inquiry made as to this affair. We have telegraphed to Poti for further particulars.

No. 95.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 450.) *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 256 of the 10th ultimo respecting the mission of the Circassian Chief, Ahmed Ghalib Bey, for the settlement of the Circassian refugees in the Sandjak of Ismidt, and forwarding a despatch from Major Warlow relative to the miserable condition of the refugees in that sandjak and in the Kaïmakamlik of Dusdschep.

I approve your Excellency's intention to endeavour to bring the Porte to a sense of the great responsibility they are incurring by their treatment of these refugees.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 96.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 322.) *Therapia, September* 3, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 314 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a memorandum I have received from Major Trotter on Abédine Pasha's note of the 5th July last on the subject of Reforms in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Memorandum by Major Trotter on Abédine Pasha's Despatch of July 5, 1880, *in reply to Mr. Goschen's Note of June* 11.

IT is quite true, as stated in the preamble, that competent functionaries have been sent from Constantinople to the provinces to investigate the question of reforms; but in the five eastern vilayets,* which form my Consular jurisdiction, it is indisputable that little has been done in the way of actual reform.

Had substantial results been arrived at it is probable that his Excellency the Foreign Minister would have taken the present opportunity of pointing them out.

As Abédine Pasha was himself one of the Commissioners sent to execute reforms it is perhaps his modesty that prevents him making more than a very short allusion to his own work. I will therefore briefly allude here to the action of the three Reform Commissions.

The first Commission appointed was for the reform of the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Van; Yusuf Pasha, a former Finance Minister, and lately Governor of Trebizond, was the first, and Serkis Effendi, an Armenian, a Member of the Council of State, was the second Imperial Commissioner.

* Erzeroum, Diarbekir, Van, Bitlis, and Kharput.

They arrived at Erzeroum in May 1879, and at the close of the same year proceeded to Van, where they have remained ever since.

I sent numerous reports to Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the work of the Commissioners while at Erzeroum, some of which were printed in Blue Book, "Turkey No. 4 (1880)."

I will only here state that I can most conscientiously affirm that I do not know of a single permanent good substantial reform resulting from their mission at Erzeroum. As stated at the time, I attributed this unsatisfactory result to the want of support on the part of the central Government at Constantinople, and to the ill-concealed opposition of the local authorities, rather than to the undoubted want of energy and firmness displayed by the Commissioners.

At Van I am informed that during the winter and the spring the Commissioners have worked diligently and with considerable success at the task of relieving distress in the famine-stricken provinces.

This work should doubtless have been undertaken by the Wali of the province, but as the latter neglected the interests with which he was charged by His Majesty the Sultan, one can only rejoice that the Reform Commissioners were on the spot, and, by their instances and remonstrances, prevailed on the Imperial Government—although somewhat late in the day—to give substantial help to the afflicted districts.

As to reform, however, from all I can learn the work of the Commissioners at Van has been as barren as it was at Erzeroum.

As a Turkish official of high standing remarked to me a few days ago, it would have been better had the large salaries that have been paid to the Imperial Commissioners during the past one and a-half years been applied to the payment of the gendarmerie.

The second Imperial Commission was sent to the Diarbekir and Kharput Vilayets. It was composed of Abédine Pasha as First Commissioner with Manas Effendi, a Roman Catholic Armenian, as his collegue. These officers worked with well-directed energy and zeal, and the very important result of their work was the banishment from Diarbekir of more than a hundred of the principal Chiefs, Beys, and Aghas of the province, many of whom had for years past been the undoubted scourges of the country. In this action Abédine was supported by the local authorities, but he was ultimately reprimanded from Constantinople as showing an excess of zeal, and he was prevented from carrying out for Kharput the same measures which he had effected at Diarbekir.

In addition to this very important measure, Abédine Pasha instituted an organized police force for the large towns of the vilayet. That at Diarbekir was organized by a well selected committee, under the eyes of the First Commissioner, and has proved a great success; that for the other towns was not so carefully organized, and the result has been a failure.

Abédine's campaign against the corruption of the Courts, and maladministration generally, was not so successful, and he left the Courts of Justice as impure as he found them. Several officials, suspended for misconduct while Abédine Pasha was at Diarbekir, *inter alia*, Khourshid Bey, the ex-Governor of Mardin, were, after Abédine Pasha left the vilayet, acquitted of the charges brought against them—charges of which they were undoubtedly guilty.

The third Commission, that of Baker Pasha, was charged to inspect a gendarmerie which did not exist, and to make inquiries generally as to the state of the country.

It has been generally supposed that Baker Pasha was invested with executive power. But this was not the case, his mission was purely one of inquiry.

Baker Pasha, and his colleague Said Pasha, have just returned with a fund of valuable and well-digested information, at the disposal of Abédine Pasha and the Ministers of the Porte.

As Abédine Pasha claims credit for the despatch of the above Commissions, and as in the capacity of Imperial Commissioner, he himself did display much zeal and energy, I would venture to suggest that, in the reply to his note, due acknowledgment should be made of the services rendered by the Imperial Commission for reforms in the Vilayet of Diarbekir, although it might be pointed out that the premature removal of the Commissioner as Vali of Siwas prevented the completion of the reforms he had inaugurated. In the absence of any visible results from the work of the Erzeroum and Van Commission, and owing to the premature removal of the Commission from Diarbekir, the work of reform has yet to be accomplished almost in its entirety.

It appears to me extremely fortunate that Baker Pasha has returned from Asia Minor at this particular juncture.

I know personally that he is prepared to expose fully to the Porte the actual state of the maladministration of the country, and to recommend the adoption of very important and substantial reforms. It would probably be much easier for the Porte ostensibly, of its own free will, to accept the radical propositions of their own Commissioners, dispatched to the country for the express purpose of ascertaining its wants, than to accept even a much more moderate measure of reform forced on it by the European Powers.

There is just now so much irritation felt at the Porte against England in connection with the Greek frontier question, that I can hardly conceive it possible that the Porte would enter into a really satisfactory course of reform on the pressure of the Powers. They might make promises, fully intending to break them when opportunity occurs. On the other hand, it is possible that, in order to avoid further complications with the Powers, they may spontaneously take advantage of Baker Pasha's return to decide on important measures, and it appears to me that it would be desirable, as far as possible, to encourage the Porte to act as above.

Abédine Pasha claims credit, in addition to the despatch of the Commissions of Reform, for the complete separation that has been actually carried out between the Civil Tribunals and the Executive Power.

Unfortunately, this separation has not been followed by the results hoped for, owing to the fact that the country is not ready for the change, and I fear it must be admitted that, as far as can be judged by the results hitherto, the very considerable changes inaugurated have been productive in some cases of more harm than good. Several new highly-paid appointments have been made in the shape of Inspectors of Justice and Procureurs-Généraux. Where a capable and energetic man has been appointed Inspector, as is the case in Diarbekir, some benefit has undoubtedly accrued; justice marches more promptly than it did, and the decisions of the Tribunals have been less unsatisfactory. At Erzeroum, on the other hand, the incompetence and infirmities of the Judicial Inspector have made the march of justice even more unsatisfactory than before. Before the recent changes were introduced, the Vali would sometimes interfere to prevent a glaring miscarriage of justice, and, although it is true he might equally interfere in favour of injustice, yet, as the former cases are those in which Her Majesty's Consuls would be the most likely to interest themselves, the change of system has, from a Consular point of view, not worked well. The invariable reply of a Vali now, in answer to remonstrances against a miscarriage of justice, is: "I have no power whatever, under the new regulations, to interfere." I presume, however, that it may be generally accepted that, as long as the Judges are corrupt, the Courts will remain a disgrace to the country; also that, as long as the Judges are insufficiently and irregularly paid, they will continue to be corrupt. The heavy fees imposed by recent legislation choke off applicants for justice. New regulations as to the use of warrants, &c., are not properly applicable to a semi-civilized country, and in fact, all the complications and intricacies of European systems tend to prevent justice rather than to further its ends. I must admit that the Porte has done its very best, and that with a very fair measure of success, to separate the Judicial Tribunals from the Executive Power, but until honest Judges can be found and maintained, I must confess I prefer the old system to the new.

Abédine Pasha claims that the Porte has commenced to organize a gendarmerie and a police force in certain localities, and has discussed various projects of organization. It is superfluous to remark that the discussion of projects of organization is hardly sufficient for the object in view; what we want is action. I understand that eighteen months ago a complete and thoroughly well-digested scheme for the reorganization of the gendarmerie was submitted to the Porte by a Commission appointed by itself. No action whatever, however, appears to have been taken on it.

Abédine Pasha, as before mentioned, himself organized a very fairly efficient police force for the town of Diarbekir. His trials at Mardin, Kharput, and Saert, although *bond fide* organizations, were less successful, owing, in great measure, to jealousy on the part of the old zaptieh force of the newly-clothed and better paid police force. At Kharput the hostility of the then Governor (now Vali of Mosul) to reform was so great that the moment Abédine Pasha left the place, the Governor at once refused to recognize, and absolutely abolished, the newly-formed force, which no longer existed when I passed through Kharput last winter.

I know of no police force instituted in other towns within my Consular jurisdiction.

As regards the reorganization of the gendarmerie no substantial steps whatever have been taken. A good officer was selected as chief of the Erzeroum gendarmerie, but as he is unprovided with funds, regulations, or a basis of organization, he can do nothing; and being dissatisfied with his position, has, I understand, sent in his resignation. At the newly-formed Vilayet of Bitlis a good officer of artillery was sent as Colonel of Gendarmerie. Colonel Norton, of the Imperial Gendarmerie, was sent as Inspector, and two "bin-bashis" or majors, one of them a very smart officer, were sent to organize the gendarmerie, but there was no gendarmerie to organize, and no funds were available for the purpose when I passed through three months ago, and the officers selected were in despair and disgust. At Van no steps have been taken, that I am aware of, for reorganizing the gendarmerie. At Kharput the same. It will thus be seen that the formation of an efficient gendarmerie has made no practical progress whatever, nor can it possibly do so until a proper organization be adopted and funds be inalienably set aside for the purpose.

At the head-quarters of the vilayets the existing zaptiehs are sometimes paid with fair regularity, but away from the head-quarters they are always some months in arrears.

The most important part of Abédine Pasha's reply, however, consists in the statement that the result of the inquiries of the Special Commissions has been the decision that the most necessary and urgent reforms required are—

1. The sub-division of the country into communes; and,
2. The formation of a Court of Assizes.

I say that this is the most important part of Abédine's despatch, because the fact that he raises these two points to such sole prominence is a clear proof to me that he is only trifling with the whole question. Leaving aside for a moment the discussion of the desirability or otherwise of the introduction of the above changes, it is quite evident that, even if introduced, they could only be admitted as a small instalment of the reforms demanded.

I observe, in a memorandum of reform for Anatolia submitted by Colonel Wilson to Her Majesty's Government, that in a résumé at the end of his paper the "establishment of a travelling Court of Assize" appears as one out of *thirty-nine* proposed measures.

Presuming that Her Majesty's Government has really at heart the thorough reform of the frontier provinces, I feel bound to express my opinion that what may be called *tinkering* measures will be of no avail. Reform to be thorough must be radical. It is little use establishing an efficient gendarmerie to seize and arrest criminals as long as it is possible for the said criminals subsequently to make sure of escaping justice by bribery. It is no use effecting minor reforms while the greatest evils remain untouched. The ills under which the country is now smarting may almost, without exception, be traced back to one of the following causes:—

1. To the almost universal corruptibility of the governing classes and the Judges, to which is but too often added administrative incapacity and "mauvaise volonté."
2. To the excessive centralization at Constantinople.
3. To the monopoly of nearly all administrative posts by the dominant Mahommedan class.
4. To impecuniosity.

These evils can only be met by:—

1. A system of decentralization.
2. The introduction of a large number of competent European officials with large executive powers.

I am of opinion that corruption and misgovernment have arrived at such a pitch that the Ottoman Government cannot thoroughly reform itself by *itself*, even if it had the earnest wish to do so.

In my opinion it would be desirable, for administrative purposes, to revert to the old state of things and unite the present small vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis into one province (Erzeroum), the whole to be under one Governor-General, with head-quarters at Erzeroum, but under obligation to visit every year the head-quarters of all principal sandjaks.

The Governor-General (who should be a European if possible), should have largely increased powers, and should be, under certain restrictions, the *final referee on all questions concerning the internal administration of the country*. *Inter alia* he should have the power of confirming sentences of capital punishment. He should be obliged to

remit annually a certain fixed proportion of the revenue (or a certain fixed sum) to Constantinople. A portion of this sum might be set aside for the support of the Imperial troops within the vilayet. The Imperial Government should have no further claim on the resources of the vilayet, so that the Governor might be sure of having at his disposal for the ordinary expenditure of the vilayet a certain fixed sum. Owing to the existing system of the Central Treasury drawing bills or "havalés" on the local Treasuries, this security does not exist. The province is drained to supply funds to the Central Government and often to the Palace, salaries remain unpaid, and the whole administration of the vilayet is thrown into confusion. No satisfactory reforms can be carried out until a fixed revenue is secured by this or some other means.

To enable the Governor-General to devote his time to important affairs, and to supervise with equal care the administration of all the provinces under his orders, he should be relieved of the personal charge of the head-quarters' sandjak, *i.e.*, a separate Mutessariflik, with the usual staff, should be appointed for Erzeroum. Many of the officials might be selected from the present staff.

The newly-formed Vilayet of Bitlis would be done away with (N.B.—It has as yet only been very partially organized), and for it would be substituted the three Mutessarifliks of Bitlis, Mosh, and Saert. The present Van Vilayet would form the two Sandjaks of Van and Hakkiari, under Mutessarifs, as was the case not many years ago.

The Governor-General to be appointed for five years only, removable in the interim, only in case of misconduct, and with the sanction of a majority of two-thirds of the Great Powers.

The Mutessarif might be selected by the Governor-General, but confirmed and appointed by the Porte; any Mutessarif appointed after the reorganization to hold his appointment for five years.

The same rule should hold good for all subordinate appointments; subordinates only removable for misconduct by the Governor-General, with the approval of a two-thirds majority of some special Council hereafter to be appointed for this and other matters.

The Imperial army to be under Constantinople as at present, as far as regards organization, but the military authorities to be obliged to assist the civil authorities whenever called on by the Governor-General or Governors of districts.

Some such system of decentralization as I have roughly sketched out will, I think, be found *indispensable*. It will do away with many of the crying evils which now exist.

I believe if the Governor-General were European (an Englishman, for choice) Turks, Kurds, and Christians, would give him a fair chance. If an Armenian Governor were appointed, I believe the opposition would be so great on the part of the Moslems that good government would be found impossible.

It would be borne in mind that all the administrative officials* throughout the country are Moslems. These would at first one and all bitterly resent being placed under an Armenian Governor.

The necessity of appointing a Governor who shall command the confidence and respect of all classes and communities might be very strongly urged on the Porte.

I believe it to be absolutely indispensable that competent Europeans be given high posts in the gendarmerie, that one or more Europeans should be appointed as Inspectors (with important powers to be determined on hereafter) in the Departments of Justice and Finance.

The introduction of a fair share of Armenians amongst the employés would be gradual and a matter of time. Ultimately the most fit should be appointed, irrespective of race or creed.

In cases where the present Governors and Sub-Governors or other officials be removed for misconduct or other causes, they may be replaced by Christian officials where it shall be deemed advisable by the Governor-General. A majority of Christians in a caza should entitle that caza to a Christian Governor.

A gendarmerie shall be organized in which Moslems and Christians shall be indiscriminately admitted, the organization of this Department to be left to the Commission of which General Baker is President. It is most desirable that the Chief should be a European if a fit and competent person can be found to accept the post; and there should, if possible, be at least two or three other European executive officers under his orders.

One of the principal causes of corruption being the insufficiency and irregularity

* Such as Mutessarifs and Kaimakams.

in payment of salaries, a new scale of civil salaries and allowances should be drawn up on a liberal scale. Subsequent reduction of salaries should not be permitted.

This is not the place, however, for drawing up an elaborate scheme for the constitution of a good Government for these provinces. It appears to me that the first thing to be done is to get the Porte to accept the principle of a partial decentralization on the lines now brought forward, to accept equally the principle of the introduction of a European Governor-General and a certain number of highly-placed European officials, also to accept the principle of an equality of rights on the part of all subjects of His Majesty the Sultan, and the decentralization of the Government, by the introduction of a Civil Code for universal application (except, perhaps, where Moslem interests alone are concerned); Christians to be entitled to a fair share of the administrative appointments throughout the country. Important and extensive changes with a view *inter alia* of eliminating its religious organization, must be made in the constitution and powers of the present Idareh Medjliss, which, as at present constituted, stands perhaps more in need of reform than any other institution.

These questions cannot be entered into in detail in a paper like the present. It would probably be necessary that a Commission composed as far as possible of individuals having a special knowledge of the country be appointed, to sit in Constantinople, and draw up a detailed scheme based on the above principles. The members of the various Reform Commissions despatched by the Porte to the frontier provinces might with advantage be made members of the Commission, which should be of an international character. Baker Pasha would make a good President, but Her Majesty's Government and the other European Powers interested ought to be represented on the Commission, and it is especially important, nay I may add essentially necessary, that the principle be strongly insisted on from the first of the introduction of the European element into the Government of the country; but if the European Governments press the acceptance of European officials on the Porte, they are bound in honour and justice to provide competent officers for the purpose, who should in fact be officers in their own employ lent to the Turkish Government. Sufficient inducement should be offered to the indivuals concerned so as to insure good men accepting the post.

I now return once more to Abédine's own proposals.

In a short State Paper Abédine Pasha has naturally found it difficult to enter into details, and his two proposals are necessarily somewhat crude and incomplete. The proposal for the formation of a Court of Assize is undoubtedly a good one. Many of the existing abuses in the administration of justice are due to the evil influence exerted by the local families of Notables. A Notable, if not himself possessing a seat as Judge, is almost sure to be represented by a relative and dependant; the other members of the Court are intimidated and justice cannot be obtained against a local magnate, whatever may be the demerits of his case. This possession of power naturally gives rise to its abuse, and in many cases the Notables, sure of immunity, commit oppressions and wrongs which could never otherwise be tolerated.

A movable Court of Assize composed of well-paid Judges having no special local interests or connections would inevitably be found a powerful instrument for the protection of the weak and the furtherance of the ends of justice.

The months and years of delay which take place in the administration of justice under the present system, would be in a great measure done away with; witnesses would be easily found when wanted, and an end would be put to the browbeating of witnesses by members of a Tribunal who are more or less dependent on the favour of the great man who is perhaps a party to the case.

With regard to Abédine's project for the division of the country into communes, I confess I cannot see the probability of any great advantages accruing from such an organization, but, on the contrary, I see numerous disadvantages. It might certainly enable various communities to club together for purposes of defence against outsiders, but that same organization might, and probably would, develop, in many parts of the country that I am acquainted with, into organizations of an offensive as well as of a defensive character. The country would be divided into a number of little petty States of various religions, intensely hostile to one another, and, wherever strong enough, trying perhaps to pay out old scores rather than to look to the progress and development of themselves and their neighbours. I confess I would prefer seeing a strong Executive and an efficient and well-organized police, under a competent head, able and willing to keep the peace wherever it may be threatened, than the anarchy and increased and chronic hostility which would result from the formation of those little independent communities.

If the Government do not see their way to the organization of an efficient police force, it may be necessary to let communities arm themselves, with a view to their own protection; but it is undoubtedly the first duty of a Government to provide for the general safety.

From what I know of the character of the numerous races and classes inhabiting the frontier provinces, I do not think that the different communes it is proposed to form would work cordially together for the construction or improvement of common roads or lines of communication.

The project, however, is at present extremely vague; no idea is given as to the powers to be conferred on the Councils of the communes; nor does it appear that the principle of the rights of the different classes of the community to hold office in the communes is to be extended higher up the scale, so that Christians should have their representatives amongst the Kaïmakams and Mutessarifs.

Inquiry might with advantage be made from independent sources as to the experience actually gained in the Salonica district in the case quoted by Abédine Pasha.

Abédine's proposal to put aside a tenth part of the revenue for instruction and public works is a good one, but it would form a portion only of the larger proposal I have made, that a fixed percentage of the revenue only be sent to the central Government, the balance being devoted to local requirements.

If large sums be devoted from the public revenues for educational purposes, due precautions should be taken that all classes and creeds should benefit in equal proportions from the liberality of the Government.

It must be borne in mind that, owing to the numerous races and religions which are to be found in these Eastern provinces, owing to the nomad habits of a large section of the population, owing to the state of chronic rebellion and lawlessness which still exists in many parts of the provinces, laws and systems which may be admirably suited for a more settled and homogeneous province, may be quite out of place here. What is wanted is a strong and just Executive Government, independent of Constantinople.

I believe all classes of the population, whether Turks or Armenians, Kurds or Nestorians, Arabs or Syrians, would equally welcome a strong and just Government which would insure safety of life and property for all, and would finally insure them, what it does not do at present, from the oppressions and injustice, not only of the Kurds, but also of the employés of the Government itself.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of Abédine Pasha's reply, I must admit that there is much truth in his complaint, "que les esprits passionés semblent s'être donné pour mission d'inventer des crimes imaginaires"—the sifting of truth from falsehood takes up much of a Consul's time. Nevertheless, the fact remains that, after stripping off all exaggeration in the accounts that are presented to the eyes of Europe and to the resident Consuls, there remains more than sufficient well-established grievances as to necessitate early and urgent attention being paid to them by the Porte, not only out of deference to the European Powers, but with a view to its own self-preservation. No one can know this better than Abédine Pasha himself.

The question as to the relative numbers of the Armenian and Moslem populations forms the subject of a separate memorandum.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major,*
Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.

Constantinople, September 1, 1880.

No. 97.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 331.)
Therapia, September 7, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 252 to your Lordship of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Major Warlow, in which he replies to the complaints made by the Porte of his proceedings during his tour in the Ada Bazaar district.

I have assured Major Warlow that I attach no credence whatever to the statements made in this matter by the Turkish authorities, many of which were clearly absurd.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Major Picton-Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 14.)
Therapia, August 21, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, on the 18th instant, of your Excellency's despatch of the 13th instant, inclosing copy of a communication from the Porte dated the 15th July, complaining of my proceedings during my tour in the Ada Bazaar district, the term "leurs rapports entre eux" is not sufficiently definite to enable me to state whether any of my questions related to them regarding the conduct of the local authorities, I asked no more than was necessary to ascertain whether they were endeavouring to keep down crime or not; as to the aspirations of the people, I asked no questions, but could not help hearing expressed, by Turks and Christians alike, very strong aspirations for security of life and property.

2. The information which has been given to his Excellency Abédine Pasha is partly true and partly false; that there is only one British subject in the Ismid Sandjak is, I believe, perfectly true, and of his existence I was not aware until I happened to meet him; that I asked many questions of Turks is undoubtedly a fact; that any single question of mine related to their mosques and liberty of worship is, as undoubtedly, a fiction; that such liberty should be denied to Turks in their own country was an idea that never occurred to me; that there should have been any confusion between Mosques and Armenian places of worship, as suggested by your Excellency, is hardly likely, for regarding the Armenian churches even I asked no questions, seeing, as I did, that the Christians were in no way molested in the exercise of their religion, and hearing no complaints on this point from the Gregorian Bishop, the subject was not even alluded to in any of my despatches.

3. If the charge of "having made seditious publications," really originated in an error of translation, as deemed probable, by his Excellency Abédine Pasha, it is clear that very little care can have been taken in examining into the evidence on the strength of which the Prefect of Constantinople thought fit to accuse me of so grave an offence, as that official has since seen reason to take a "less serious view" of the whole affair, I presume that the "inquiry opened by Imperial order with the view of proving the intrigues of the English Vice-Consul at Ada Bazaar," has not "established" anything except the charge which has since been withdrawn as unfounded.

4. In accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I left Brussa early on the 19th instant and arrived here in the evening of the same day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON-WARLOW.

No. 98.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 332.)
Therapia, September 7, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 320 of the 3rd instant, I transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Vice-Consul Stewart at Konieh, relative to the question of reforms in the Asiatic provinces of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Captain Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 20. Political.)
Konia, August 26, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 24th July, 1880, with inclosure on Reform. In giving an opinion, I would beg to point out that it is very difficult for a comparative stranger more or less ignorant of the language, habits, and modes of thought to venture an opinion. To still further increase the difficulty, no details are given. For these reasons it is with great diffidence

and although I have been assisted by the opinion of residents, that I venture on the following observations:—

As regards the division in Communes or Nahiés.—Theoretically the proposal is good, as many of the cazas are now too large, but, practically, unless the whole system of Government is changed, I am at a loss to see what good it will do. Admitting that the Administrators or Mudirs will be paid on the same scale as those now filling similar positions, there can be but little doubt that its only result will be to increase the cost of Government and the number of bribe taken. The Mudirs of the communes I have met receive salaries varying from 180 to 400 piastres a-month, or roughly, from 1*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* On this they say, and I fully believe them, that they are unable to live. They are generally very ill-educated men, writing with difficulty, and I have no reason to think that their communes are either happier or better governed than the rest of the country. Indeed, it is probable that the inhabitants of the independent villages are the better off of the two, having one less official to bribe. To induce honest and competent men to accept these positions, salaries of about 800 piastres a-month would be required. A clerk also on a salary of 500 piastres would probably also be wanted. These salaries may appear large, but where there is so little education it commands a price. Indeed, even with such a salary, I question if the requisite numbers would be forthcoming. That men are to be found who would serve for less the present Mudirs prove, but as I have already stated, such a class of officials would be far from an advantage. A case showing what the present Mudirs are like was brought quite lately to my notice. A Mudir who had been drawing a salary of 240 piastres was appointed overseer to look after the building of some emigrant houses on a salary of 800 piastres. After taking up the work for some time he suddenly threw it up and asked to be again appointed Mudir, the reason, as I am informed, being that as a Mudir he probably made as much or more, besides not having to work so hard. Whether the country would be improved by employing numbers of similar officials is improbable.

Government to be carried on by an elected Council and President.—From what I have seen of the working of Councils I am not impressed in their favour. The elections are generally a farce; frequently the individual most generally disliked is chosen because he is feared; the members only serve to suit their own selfish ends and enrich themselves and their followers, quite regardless of the public interest. In a country where there is little independent and public spirit it is absurd to think that individuals will be disinterested enough to work on a merely nominal salary for the public. Whether this would apply to communal Councils remains to be seen. On the one hand it might be asserted that the electoral districts being smaller, more care might be taken who was elected, but, on the other hand, it may be said that for this same reason personal influence would have more effect. Some difficulty would also probably be found in getting the elected members together, as, for instance, a member residing in a village on the extreme edge of the commune would have either to come and live in the village where the Council met or travel several miles every day. In any country, but particularly in this, it is probable such members would be remarkable for their absence, and the practical result of the whole scheme would be that the members would all be elected from the central village or its immediate vicinity. Another difficulty would be in finding qualified members, *i. e.*, those who could read and write. But I think the great objection to the Council is that it would remove the feeling of responsibility from the President or Mudir. Should the scheme come into force I would suggest that the Mudir be made solely responsible for the state of his commune, and that he should have the power to override, except for the apportionment of taxes, the opinion of his Council, reporting the fact at the same time to his superior. Unless some regulation of this kind is made it will be difficult to hold any one responsible, a state of things very pleasant to the office holders. It would also be advisable that his Council should only meet on certain stated periods for a general discussion of the affairs of the commune. Nothing is stated as to how long he is to hold office, how or when he is to be removed; these are all very important points. I take it for granted that the Mudir will be sufficiently salaried. If not salaried, whether elected or not, he will be only another bribe taker. It is but seldom in any country that honest and efficient officials are to be found who will work without pay. Ahédine Pasha states that these Councils will be efficacious in increasing the number of schools, building roads, &c. Judging by the Imaré Councils of vilayets, sandjaks, &c., this has not been my experience. Although the members of these Councils are comparatively educated men, I have seen no real signs of a desire to build roads, schools, &c. If such Councils have not attempted anything of the kind, is it probable that Councils

made up of ignorant peasants, who have probably never seen a road, will be more enlightened?

Police Force, &c.—Unquestionably the most urgent need of the country is that of an efficient, well disciplined, and well armed body of police. Provided sufficient money can be found to pay them well the distribution of the police is merely a matter of detail which can be easily settled. The present police force is extremely inefficient, greatly underpaid, and badly armed. The officers report that it is hard to get men to join, and that if they punish or order them to do anything disagreeable that they immediately resign. Their present salaries per month, excluding rations for men and horses, are foot zaptiehs, 75 piastres; horse zaptiehs, 88 piastres. To secure efficient and trustworthy men probably double or treble salaries would have to be given; perhaps even more. These salaries may appear large, but the ordinary price of unskilled labour here is 5 to 7 or 8 piastres a-day. Unless increased salaries are given and means found to convince the men that they will be regularly paid, the name of zaptieh may be changed into that of policeman, gendarme, or any other fancy name, but for all practical purposes he will be the same useless and inefficient individual as before. The officers also are generally worthless and venal.

His Excellency Abédine Pasha makes lavish promises about the police. I can only say the sooner these promises are carried out the better. Should his efforts be successful he will deserve well of his country.

Cours des Assises.—I suppose it is intended that the Bedayet (First Instance) Courts in each sandjak are to make periodical trips through the different cazas. It would appear that the Courts would lose a great deal of time travelling, and that they, with their large retinues of clerks, zaptiehs, servants, &c., will be a heavy burden on the peasantry. In the Konia Sankjak there are some ten cazas and eleven nahiés, or communes, some of them 18 to 20 hours, say 60 miles, distant. As an excuse for the ambulatory Courts, it is stated that the witnesses now refuse to appear, owing to indolence. Probably there is some truth in this; but one of the main reasons why many of them are now unwilling to come forward is that they have no confidence in the justice of the Courts. Even if the accused be condemned, there is no security that he may not be shortly after released; in either case, he probably returns to his village vowing vengeance against those who have appeared against him. In other cases, the witnesses keep away from fear of the friends of the accused or from kindly motives. Whether persons actuated by such feelings are more likely to come forward if the case be tried in their neighbourhood is doubtful. Doubtless, also, many witnesses remain away because they are not paid the expenses of their journey and their loss of time. There is a law that such payments should be made, but, like most other laws in Turkey, it is a dead letter. Another reason are the interminable delays of the Court; the witness never knows how long he may be kept. Perhaps if some attention were paid to these points, and witnesses punished for contempt of Court if they did not appear, the chief reason for changing the present system might disappear. If an efficient police force were established, it would be its business to make the preliminary investigation and send witnesses and accused up before the Courts. There is now a Court in each caza for preliminary investigations and minor offences.

I would beg to point out to your Excellency that it is very easy to make elaborate schemes and large promises, but that it is another thing to carry them out. The Turkish Government in these, as in many other would-be reforms, adopt laws and institutions totally regardless whether they are suitable or not to the country and of the increased expenditure they entail. As regards expenditure, the difficulty is soon got over. The additional officials are appointed and promised large salaries; these salaries are, perhaps, paid for the first few months, and then an order comes cutting them down. As an instance, there is the case of the additional officials appointed to the Law Courts some time ago. Probably one of the causes for these and other similar schemes is the love of novelty; another is that it will please Europe, and furnish a ready answer to complaints.

These reforms always appear to me to begin at the wrong end. Instead of increasing the number of officials, efforts should have been made to decrease them; instead of cutting down salaries, they should have been increased; instead of concentrating all power and initiative in the capital, and thus causing delays in the transaction of business of weeks and months, decentralization should have been carried out; instead of tying down officials, and making them little better than taxgathers, their responsibility should have been brought home to them.

One of the many reasons of the gross misgovernment is this question of responsibility. Has any one ever heard of a Turkish official being really punished for his

misdeeds? or is it not the case that the utmost that happens is his dismissal, to reappear, probably after a short time, in a similar, or perhaps higher, position? As an instance of this, there is an official here holding a most responsible post who some years ago was a common convict. In this respect, the Turkish Government deliberately neglect the two great incentives to good conduct, namely, punishments and rewards. Another reason is the smallness of the salaries. Is it likely that men will be found to work hard and honestly on such miserable pittances as are now given in the great number of cases, and those even not paid with any regularity, and the office-holder liable at any moment to be turned off? Another great grievance is that the officials are now never certain when orders may not come cutting down their salaries, now to form a pension fund that no one believes in, again because the value of money has changed, and frequently for no reason at all.

To such an extent has bribery and corruption now made its way among all classes, and so much have the people lost faith in the honesty and ability of the Government, that it is now difficult to see what remedy short of foreign supervison will be of much avail. Of one fact I am convinced, that until some remedy is found for the above and other similar grievances, no scheme, however well or carefully devised, will stop the ruin.

The Government may cover the country with officials, and introduce the most improved European laws, but the only result will be to increase the bribe-takers, and perhaps mislead public opinion at home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 99.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 333.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a despatch from Lieutenant Chermside on the alleged illegal suspension of the Accountant-General of Amasia.

I do not know that it would be necessary to trouble your Lordship with this question at all, except that it affords an illustration of the present system under which Her Majesty's Consuls exercise a vigilant supervision over Turkish administrative abuses.

I shall, in accordance with the previous practice of this Embassy, take steps at the Porte, to ascertain the legality of the suspension, and remonstrate against the steps taken if they prove to be illegal; but I feel it my duty once more to draw your Lordship's attention to the exceptional manner in which Her Majesty's Government is obliged to act, as compared with all the other Powers, if we undertake the duty of constant remonstrances against every strong case of administrative short-comings which is brought to our knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 16.)
Sir,

Sivas, August 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Hafuz Suleiman Effendi, Muhasseldji, or Chief Accountant and Controller, of the Sandjak of Amasia, has been suspended from his functions through the representations of the Malieh Mufettish, or Financial Inspector. He was suspended by the Mutessarif of Amasia, but was not, he states, furnished with a copy of the accusations against him.

Suleiman Effendi states that he was assisted by the British Ambassador on a former occasion to obtain justice.

The suspension of this official appears to be illegal, as the charges have to be established before such suspension.

The Defterdar, or Accountant-General, of the province has given me his opinion that the suspension is illegal.

Suleiman Effendi has written to the Treasury at Constantinople from Amasia

(twice, second letter the 6th July, N.S.) and from Sivas (the 5th August, N.S.), the two latter letters to remonstrate against his suspension. He has also telegraphed from Sivas on the same subject, and asked to be allowed to go to his work till the charges were proved. He has received no answer.

I would request that, if your Excellency approves, an inquiry be made from the Finance Minister as to the legality of the suspension, and that if it is illegal orders be issued to telegraph to the Vali.

The complainant has long been on bad terms with his Mutessarif. The latter is notoriously a bad character. The Defterdar, a recent arrival, is a very old friend of Suleiman's and speaks most highly of him. He told the Dragoman of the Consulate-General that he imagines it is a spitefully got up case.

The Vali, on the other hand, speaks strongly against Suleiman Effendi, but is, I am told, on intimate terms with the Mutessarif. He told me he considered the suspension legal. It was not by his order.

I append a Turkish copy of Article 12 of the Financial Inspector's Instructions, and a translation of the same.

As the complainant is an official of very high standing, and there appears considerable doubt as to the legality of his arbitrary suspension, I have thought it right to forward his complaint and request for a fair trial to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 100.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 339.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 7, 1880.

IN my despatch No. 256 of the 16th August, I forwarded a despatch from Major Warlow, Vice-Consul at Broussa, on the state of the refugees in his district.

I have now the honour to inclose further despatches from this officer on the same subject, Nos. 13, 15, and 16, and also a despatch from Lieutenant Chermside with regard to the state of the refugees in the Vilayet of Sivas.

As your Lordship is aware, I requested Major Warlow to come to Pera in order to go thoroughly with him into the state of his district. During his stay here, he called at my desire on the Prefect of Constantinople, in whose jurisdiction the Sandjak of Ismid lies. The result of the interview is reported in Major Warlow's despatch No. 15.

I have had the opportunity of learning much about the refugees, not only from Colonel Wilson and Major Warlow, but also from Major Trotter and General Baker, who has been good enough to tell me what he has seen himself.

The result of these communications has been to heighten the impression I had previously received, and which I have brought to your Lordship's notice before, of the immense gravity of the question.

While the Government seem absolutely helpless, and has neither the funds nor the energy to attempt to deal with the difficulty on an adequate scale, refugees seem still to pour in from all quarters. The stream both from Batoum and from the direction of Kars is incessant. Major Trotter and General Baker met hundreds on the roads on their recent journey from Van.

Your Lordship will observe that Lieutenant Chermside speaks of 50,000 immigrants into the Vilayet of Sivas, but there are districts near Ismid and elsewhere where the refugees are much more crowded.

I have not been willing to interfere to endeavour to cause emigrants destined for one district to be transferred to another, for it appears to me most inexpedient that the Representative of Her Majesty's Government should, in the eyes of the inhabitants of any district, have the responsibility of having caused this stream of emigrants to be directed to them; but I have never ceased to press the Porte as to the absolute necessity of action to organize the maintenance and distribution of these refugees, and the immense danger of neglect.

Yesterday I again took the opportunity of a visit from Abédine Pasha to speak to him of the "danger" of this question. But he seemed unable to understand how I could speak of "danger" in such a connection.

The peril of immense mortality due to scandalous neglect apparently does not

appear a real peril to the mind of the Turks, nor are they much impressed with the danger of the brigandage and pillage which must be feared from starving men.

I spoke to another very important member of the Ministry on the apathy as to this question. He informed me, in reply, that the subject had repeatedly been brought before the Council of Ministers, but that it was impossible to get them to attend to it. They were so absorbed by other questions.

If the immigration could be stopped much good would be done, but apparently the Turkish authorities, while utterly apathetic as to the maintenance of the refugees, have been quite ready to help them to pass from Russian territory into Turkish provinces. This observation applies, in the main, only to those coming by sea. The immigration by land from Kars is, of course, unaided.

I inclose the memorandum I sent to the Porte as to the state of the Ada Bazaar district on the 16th ultimo.

I also inclose a copy of a memorandum drawn up by M. Preziosi, a Dragoman of this Embassy, whom I had instructed to call on Riza Bey, the President of the Committee of Refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—The sum of 50,000 piastres spoken of by Riza Bey is so absurd in view of the number of the refugees, that I am surprised it should have been mentioned at all.

G. J. G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 100.

Major Picton-Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 13.) *Brussa, August 16, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that your despatch of the 7th July reached me only yesterday evening, having gone from Brussa to Constantinople, thence to Ada Bazaar, and back by the same route. I would beg that in future all despatches for me may be directed to the English Post Office, Constantinople, from whence they will be forwarded direct to any place that I may be visiting.

2. My telegram of the 5th July, which ran as follows: "The Government intends sending about 25,000 refugees, Circassians and Lazes, to Ismid Province immediately: this is most improper, and should be stopped if possible," referred to the importation of an entirely new batch of refugees which has since commenced, and which is now, I fear, too late to stay.

3. How this last swarm of emigrants is to be provided for I am at a loss to imagine; their arrival cannot but lead to increased confusion, misery, and crime; they will not, if I understand your Excellency's despatch rightly, be affected by the mission of Ahmed Ghalib Bey, who apparently has undertaken to provide for the refugees who were already in the Ismid Sandjak at the time you wrote; if the measures which he proposes are really carried into execution, a very great step will have been taken in the right direction.

4. If it is absolutely necessary that more refugees should be imported into Anatolia, I can only suggest that they should be sent to other parts, Ismid having already had considerable more than its fair share, and that they should be scattered, as much as possible, over the country instead of being allowed to form regular colonies in certain localities.

5. It is also absolutely necessary that the Porte, when ordering the local authorities to supply refugees with food, &c., should consider whether it is possible for them to carry out its orders or not; whether, in fact, they have any funds in hand; in Ismid, where so many starving men are to be provided for, the zaptiehs have received no pay for nine months, and in this vilayet I know that the authorities are simply unable to pay the pittance which has been sanctioned for the 8,000 refugees lately landed at Gimlek, whose condition, I have good authority for saying, is most miserable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON-WARLOW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 100.

Major Picton-Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 15.) *Therapia, August 25, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, in accordance with your instructions, I called on the Prefect of Constantinople yesterday, accompanied by Embassy Dragoman, Mr. Preziosi. No appointment having been made, we were kept waiting for nearly two hours, but were received by the Prefect as soon as he arrived at his office, at about 4 P.M. He was sufficiently polite in his manner, and made no allusion to the charges which he had so recently preferred against me.

2. The conversation which took place was nearly as follows:—

Prefect. In what condition did you find the Sandjak of Ismid?—*I.* In an extremely bad condition.

P. How so; what was bad about it?—*I.* The sandjak swarms with well-armed, half-starved refugees; robberies are being committed in every direction.

P. So I have heard from the Special Commissioner, lately sent down to report on the state of the sandjak, a regiment of cavalry is being dispatched to Ismid to-day to put down robbery. What do you think of this; will it put down crime?—*I.* It is a step in the right direction, and may make the roads safer for travellers, but you will find it impossible to put down crime so long as there are starving refugees all over the country, and now I hear that an enormous number of Lazis (25,000) are being sent over to the Ismid Sandjak.

P. It is intended to provide these people with land, cattle, food, &c., and to settle them down as colonists.—*I.* If this can really be done, well and good; but the Abbasye refugees, who came over from Soukoum-Kaleh three or four years ago, are still unprovided for.

P. The local authorities report that these Abbasyes are worthless, lazy fellows, who will not work or settle down.—*I.* There are, of course, such men amongst them, but the great mass of them would, I believe, earn an honest livelihood if they could; they have never had a fair chance; some had waste land given them with no means of cultivating it.

P. We are now trying to raise 30,000*l.* to spend on the refugees.—*I.* That may relieve their distress for a short time, but to do any real good you should get rid of all the Abbasyes who wish to return to their own country.

P. We don't prevent them from returning.—*I.* That is not sufficient; they are penniless, and can't get away; why not give them a passage in Government ships.

P. This is a matter of policy, and quite out of my line; the Porte must do what they think best.—*I.* Yes, but as you, being Head of the sandjak, are responsible for its peace, might you not merely suggest the removal of these starving Abbasyes?

P. Certainly not, I cannot interfere in a matter of policy.

Having nothing further to suggest, I then came away.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON-WARLOW.

Inclosure 3 in No. 100.

Major Picton-Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 16.) *Brussa, August 30, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have visited Gimlek, and find the refugees there in a miserable condition. About two months ago, between 6,000 and 7,000 men, women, and children were landed at that port, of whom about 1,500 are remaining close to it, the rest being divided into four or five parties and removed to different villages in the Kaimakamlik; all the refugees are from the neighbourhood of Batoum and call themselves Georgians; a hundred or so of the Chiefs and well-to-do men are living in a large khan, the rest are camped on the outskirts of the town; they have no beds or any better shelter than rugs and sheets; few of them have any money, and many are already selling their arms, bedding, cooking utensils, &c., to buy food; a considerable number have nothing left, and are reduced to living on scraps of bread, which their children beg in town, grapes which they steal, and even mulberry leaves; exposure and insufficient food have brought on a disease, the nature of which I could not understand from their description, which carries off a strong man

in three or four days, and the number of deaths averages seven or eight daily; the Turkish authorities are not assisting them with food or money, and I was informed by the Kaïmakam that they do not intend to, as, previous to leaving Batoum, the chief Beys had signed a paper certifying that they would be able to support themselves; as yet they have only begun to suffer, but if nothing is done, their condition must become infinitely worse as winter comes on, and such funds as they may still possess are exhausted.

2. The people of the town, who are all Greeks, are almost entirely dependent for their livelihood on their olive gardens and vineyards, and they are already complaining that the refugees are eating their grapes and cutting down their olive trees for fuel. A fortnight ago a Turkish villager was killed in his own vineyard by two refugees whom he tried to prevent from taking his grapes. This is the first murder but is not likely to be the last.

3. The chief Beys, whom I saw, declared that they would starve rather than return to Batoum, although they admitted that the Russians had treated them well and tried to dissuade them from leaving; they wish to be taken to Samsoun where, they declare, they could get land.

4. I hear that about 2,000 refugees have succeeded in getting some land, and have run up huts in a village 10 or 12 miles from Gimlek, but don't know how far this is true; I will make further inquiries on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON-WARLOW.

Inclosure 4 in No. 100.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 13.) *Sivas, August* 8, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the following information concerning refugees, as a sequel to my despatch No. 9 of the 3rd July.

In my telegram of the 4th August I concluded with the words "commendable activity concerning refugees during past month." I have recently visited some of the cazas of this vilayet, and found in that of Azizich an unusual activity prevailing, owing in part, I have no doubt, to the representations at various times of Her Majesty's Representatives. An officer of zaptiehs has been sent there, intrusted with the establishment of the emigrants. According to his statement and that of the Kaïmakam, admitted by numerous refugees, measures are being taken for the construction of the dwellings, and the establishment of 400 families, principally Circassians. Aid with transport, wood, &c., is requisitioned from the existing villages. Many of the new and additional settlements are well in hand. I was besieged with numerous complaints, some well-grounded, others frivolous; the Kaïmakam examined and promised to arrange such as I brought to his notice.

There is ample to criticize in the conduct of the affair, but still a good deal is being done at this the important period.

Grain has been sown for the Government and is being harvested; this will be collected and issued to the destitute for winter subsistence and seed.

Azizich is to a great extent a grass country, a cold exposed highland in winter; one of the most serious points appears to be that the grass in the sort of water-meadows in the valleys is being mown and stacked as usual by the residents.

The refugees for the most part are from the Russian frontier and possess a considerable amount of live stock, often almost their sole wealth. They assert that there will be no food for this in the winter, and there is in places already considerable trouble between them and the residents about the existing supply.

The staff at the disposal of the authorities is ridiculously inefficient, if only numerically; available funds and resources are also wanting.

The whole business is being conducted in a rough, ready, and arbitrary way, that elicits many complaints, and I have little doubt that there is a considerable amount of injustice, but the whole proceedings connected with the establishment of refugees in Turkey are characterized by such utter and complete want of order and incompetency that it seems best not to scrutinize anything but the progress towards results too closely.

Here and in the neighbourhood are large numbers of refugees, the very numerous groups of which are in almost all cases dissatisfied, and I hear very numerous com-

plaints against the Commission. Some I was talking to yesterday were anxious to return to Kars, wearied of waiting with their children exposed and bivouacking under the carts, their families ill-fed, sick, and so on; they were speaking of organizing a sort of mass or representative meeting and telegraphing to Constantinople.

The Vali refers all matters to the Commission, and I have, therefore, no knowledge of the general state of affairs, but merely of such details as have come under my own observation; in the few cases I have referred to the Vali recently, my suggestions or requests have been treated with the greatest promptitude and attention.

One thousand four hundred families have come by land for this vilayet, and about the same number *en route* for that of Angora; besides this a large number, without carts or many animals, have disembarked at Samsoon for Djanik and Sivas; 1,000 families of these, the Vali tells me, are entering the two northern sandjaks, *i.e.*, Amasia and Tokat. The Sivas semi-official journal, indeed, asserts that in all there are nearly 50,000 refugees arrived for settlement in this vilayet.

The sufferings and privations of these poor people are great, and I cannot but stigmatize as wilfully cruel the so-called merciful, hospitable, and tolerant policy of the Sultan's Government, ready to accept any and all Moslem refugees, and guaranteeing to give them homes and lands, an enterprise for the proper conduct of which its resources and organization are quite inadequate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 100.

Memorandum on Ada-Bazar and Dudschah Districts.

THE condition of the Abbazes and Circassian refugees in the Ada Bazar district seems to be almost as pitiable as that of the natives themselves. They have been brought into the country by the Ottoman authorities during the late war from the provinces ceded to Russia, and simply turned loose with no means of existence; it can hardly be wondered at that they should take to robbing the peasants who are better off than themselves, one of the Abbaze Chiefs admitted this in speaking to Major Warlow, and added that if more refugees were brought into the province "it would become a perfect hell." It is to be hoped that the Sublime Porte will reconsider its decision before pouring fresh hordes of starving men into the province. The condition of those that are already there is so bad that they have tried to obtain permission to return to Russia, but in vain.

The Armenian and Turkish villages visited by Major Warlow seemed to be in a wretched condition. Everywhere he was told the same story of robberies and insecurity, and of the weakness and apathy of the authorities. On asking people why they did not represent their case to the authorities, the invariable answer was that it was no use for that, even when robbers were caught and brought to justice, they were never punished.

The Kaïmakam, who is new to his post, himself seems hardly aware of this state of things. He arrived at Ada Bazar during Major Warlow's stay there. In speaking of the province he described it as in a satisfactory condition. This, however, can hardly be his opinion, for Major Warlow learnt that both the Kaïmakam and the officials had threatened to punish any one who gave him information as to the true state of affairs.

Major Warlow also visited the Kaïmakamlik of Dudschab, where he found the same state things existing as in the district of Ada Bazar. The Abbazes and Circassians with whom he spoke seem to have frankly confessed that they lived by robbery, and justified their actions by saying that they could not starve. Endless complaints were made to him of robbery and cattle-lifting. It may be mentioned that though Circassians were usually credited with these misdeeds, they are often committed by the Turks themselves.

Perhaps the worst case that came under Major Warlow's notice is that of the village of Fundullia, a large village 12 miles north of Ada Bazar. Some six or eight years since it was a prosperous Greek community, breeding horses and supplying Ada Bazar and Isnid with vegetables, grain, and fruit. They owned some 1,600 acres of land near the village and in the plain of the River Songanis. About that time the Government located there a small colony of Abbaze refugees, and allotted them some waste land, which, as they were not supplied with cattle or agricultural implements,

they could not cultivate. Being armed, and little inclined to work, they took to robbing the cattle and crops of their rich neighbours. This colony rapidly increased, and now not content with merely robbing the Greeks, the refugees have fairly ousted them from the whole of their river side land and occupied it themselves. This village has been reduced from comparative wealth to abject poverty; as to the proprietorship of the land there can be no doubt, as the Greeks hold the title-deeds, and have to pay taxes for the land which has virtually passed out of their hands. All their petitions have remained unnoticed, nor can they even obtain remission of the taxes.

Inclosure 6 in No. 100.

Memorandum.

J'AI longuement entretenu Riza Bey, Président de la Commission des Réfugiés, de l'état précaire des Circassiens et Abbazes qui se trouvent dans le Sandjak d'Ismidt et de la nécessité d'établir un système de secours permanent dans le but de mettre un terme aux crimes auxquels ces malheureux sont obligés de recourir pour subsister.

Riza Bey m'a dit être au courant de la situation déplorable des réfugiés de cette région et m'a exprimé ses regrets de n'avoir ni les moyens ni le pouvoir d'y porter remède. Cette question, d'après lui, regarde particulièrement la Préfecture de la ville dont relève le Sandjak d'Ismidt, et la Porte, qui y a délégué dernièrement Ahmed Ghalib Bey. La mission de celui-ci consistait, paraît-il, à tâcher principalement de convaincre à rester en Turquie ceux des réfugiés qui désirent retourner dans leur pays natal. Riza Bey m'a informé que le Ministre des Finances vient de mettre à la disposition de la Préfecture de la ville 50,000 piastres pour être distribuées aux réfugiés d'Ismidt et d'Ada Bazar.

Thérapia, le 20 Août, 1880.

(Signé) ROBERT PREZIOSI.

No. 101.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 340. Confidential.)

Therapia, September 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a despatch No. 12 of the 13th ultimo from Major Warlow, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Broussa, reporting on a petition from the Christian community of Ada Bazar. Major Warlow divides the grievances complained of under three heads.

1. Evils suffered by Christians and Mussulmans alike.
2. Grievances peculiar to the Christians.
3. Evils arising from local causes.

Though there are many legitimate complaints under the second head, the statements made appear on the whole to bear out the view which I have heard expressed by some of our most trustworthy Consular Agents in Asia, that the main cause of the desperate situation of Christians in those regions is the utter absence of any Government at all rather than the existence of a policy of oppression. The Mussulman community suffers in common with the Christian to a very great degree, while the situation of the Christians is further aggravated by exceptional causes.

No words can exaggerate the state of anarchy, while I have been assured by men competent to judge, that looking to the entire break-down of authority, it is surprising that crime is not more general than it is. I am assured that the population are not difficult to govern, and that even the Kurds and the Circassians only require a some-what firm hand, and a conviction that there is Government authority which will be brought to bear upon them, to be kept in tolerable order.

Major Warlow alludes at the end of his despatch to a very delicate point, but which has been brought to my notice also by others of his Consular colleagues. He states that the visit of his predecessor to Ada Bazar had had a very bad effect. His advent had caused great enthusiasm as "the beginning of the end" of the miseries which they have endured so long, while the subsequent disappointment of all their hopes have caused a great revulsion of feeling and much bitterness towards the English Government.

As the subject of reforms in the provinces inhabited by Armenians is now being discussed between the Porte and the Powers, it may not be necessary to come to any decision at the present moment as to the future policy to be observed by Her Majesty's Government in the difficult position in which they find themselves placed, of being looked to by the populations for support and for changes which under the existing system they cannot bring about, but the situation is one which, in my judgment, could not be allowed to continue for any length of time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Major Picton-Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 12.)

Brussa, August 14, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a day or two before my leaving Ada-Bazar a deputation, representing the entire Christian community, headed by the Armenian Gregorian Bishop, called on me, in order to present a petition setting forth all their grievances, and praying that some measures might be adopted for their relief. As a similar document was presented to the late Ambassador,* I do not consider it necessary to forward the one now before me, but will proceed to give a summary of its contents, which fall naturally under three heads:

1st. Evils which the petitioners suffer, in common with all Ottoman subjects, viz., maladministration of justice, ignorance and venality of officials, heavy taxes, levied in an illegal and oppressive manner, &c.

2nd. Evils peculiar to them as Christians.

3rd. Evils arising from local causes.

2. Those falling under the first head may be disposed of with the remark that at Ada Bazar they are probably neither greater nor less than in other parts of Turkey. I would merely add, with regard to taxation, that the unjust mode of collection is the principal ground of complaint. Each street in the Christian quarter being assessed at a certain sum, the well-to-do inhabitants are told to collect it, and, if their poor neighbours are unable to pay, they are obliged, by threats of imprisonment, to make up the amount out of their own pockets. Several members of the deputation assured me that they had been muleted of considerable sums of money in this way, being afraid to resist the pressure brought to bear upon them.

It is possible that something might have been gained by determined resistance to such a manifestly unjust measure; but the people of Ada Bazar are a great deal too timid and too much cowed to stand up for their rights.

3. Under the second head, the principal grievance is that the Christians, although they are 60 per cent. of the total population of the town, and are nominally represented in the various Councils, have practically no share in its administration, and that no attention is paid to their wants. As an instance in proof of this, they pointed out that, while the Turkish portion of the town is provided with twelve fountains, well supplied with water, they are allowed but one; and that, owing to the connecting pipes being out of repair, it has been dry and useless for many years, owing to which they have been compelled to bring water by hand from the river, distant about two miles. When I first arrived at Ada Bazar the whole town had been short of water for some days, on account of the great water-wheel being out of order; but this was soon put to rights, and when I left the Turkish quarter was well supplied with water, while the solitary fountain belonging to the Christians still remained dry. I mention this merely as an illustration of the neglect which forms the subject of complaint.

4. Under the third head falls a much more serious class of evils, those arising from local causes, which may be summed up in the one word, lawlessness. In the town, and to a much greater degree in the surrounding country, property is held on a very insecure tenure, while life is by no means safe.

I have reported on this so fully in previous despatches, that nothing remains for me but to express my opinion that it would be difficult for the petitioners to state their case too strongly. It is true that, owing to there being no Circassians in the town, the people have directly suffered less than the small farmers and peasantry in the surrounding country; but, on the other hand, it is simply impossible to estimate the

* *Vide* despatch dated Therapia, 21st June, 1879, from Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury, "Turkey," No. 10, of 1879, p. 22.

amount of damage caused to them indirectly by the unsafe state of the roads. Trade is paralysed, and all imported articles have risen greatly in price. Merchants are afraid to risk their goods, and carriers to risk their cattle. The loss actually caused by robbers, considerable enough in itself, is small in comparison with the damage due to the panic occasioned by their exploits.

5. In conclusion, I think it right to inform your Excellency that the visit paid by my predecessor (Lieutenant Kitchener, R.E.,) last year, when he remained for nearly a month at Ada Bazar, has had a very bad effect; he was welcomed with enthusiasm by the people, who regarded his advent as "the beginning of the end" of the miseries which they had endured so long, and were sanguine that good times were coming at last. The disappointment of all their hopes has caused a great revulsion of feeling, and much bitterness towards the English Government; many of the townspeople, especially the Turks, were afraid to come near me, while others let me understand that, unless I could do something to help them, they would very much sooner that I had stayed away, as they could get no good by complaining to me, and would expose themselves to the enmity both of the Government officials and of the Circassians, who would treat them worse than ever as soon as my back was turned.

Feeling painfully the truth of these remarks, I could only point out the difficulties in the way of immediate reform, and exhort them to have patience: that they should begin to despair of relief is excusable, seeing that, although more than a year ago the Porte was "fully acquainted with the state of the Ada Bazar district," and was occupied in considering the measures to be taken to protect the population," yet, up to this time, they are without protection, and their state is even worse than it was then.

At that time, too, the "excesses of the Circassians" were notorious, but caused little surprise, it being manifest that they "must starve or rob, and that they, not unnaturally, choose the latter alternative;" yet since then the Porte has sent, and is still sending, into the same district swarms of well armed, half starved foreigners to live by robbing peaceful Ottoman subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON-WARLOW.

No. 102.

Consul Gardner to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 15, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Poti, September* 14, 1880, 4 P.M.

BRIG "St. Peter" from Bartum, Asia Minor, Black Sea coast; Abkhasians disembarked at Batoum, under tents made with sail spars. "St. Peter" paid Captain 50*l.* on account of owners, to buy provisions and return with emigrants to Turkish territory provided Russian authorities will permit. Particulars by post through Tiflis on 1st or the 9th instant.

No. 103.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 342.) *Therapia, September* 8, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 339 of the 7th instant, on the subject of the refugees in Asia Minor, I have the honour to state that Her Majesty's ship "Torch" being about to start on a cruize, I have directed Commander Selby to look in at Ismid and Gyumlek, at both which ports refugees are said to have been landed in large numbers.

Mr. E. St. John was about to proceed in the "Torch," as the guest of Captain Selby, for a few days' holiday, and he will take the opportunity of obtaining as much further information as possible as to the state of the refugees beyond that collected by Major Warlow.

The visit of the "Torch" to the parts in question will be perfectly natural, and the proceedings necessary for obtaining information will be kept as unofficial as possible. But, on the strength of the additional data which may be collected, I shall

* Despatch noted in paragraph 1.

once more make a strenuous effort to induce the Porte to take such steps as the simple dictates of humanity require.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 104.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 344.) *Therapia, September* 10, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 319 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch and its inclosures from Major Trotter, inclosing statistical Tables of the population of the frontier provinces of Turkey in Asia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Major Trotter to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 37.) *Constantinople, September* 7, 1880.

Sir,

IN compliance with verbal instructions received from your Excellency, I have the honour to submit herewith some statistical Tables I have drawn up, which may, I hope, throw some light on the disputed question as to the relative numbers of the Christian and Moslem elements in the frontier provinces of Turkey in Asia.

I have shown on the Tables themselves the authorities from which the figures have been derived, and I have added a few notes explanatory of the figures themselves.

The first Table (I) shows the male population of each separate sandjak of the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Bitlis, Van, Diarbekir, Aleppo, Kharput, Sivas, and Trebizond. They are the official figures that have been supplied by the local authorities to General Baker Pasha during his recent tour of inspection in those provinces. They have been communicated to me by Baker Pasha (with the sanction of the Turkish authorities) for your Excellency's information.

As far as Erzeroum and Van are concerned, these figures exactly tally with the data supplied to myself some months since by the Imperial Reform Commissioners. The figures for Sivas are nearly identical with some official numbers communicated to me by Lieutenant Chermside whilst writing this despatch.

In examining the Table it should be borne in mind that these official lists are compiled from the records existing in the various Local Governments, from which, for the Moslems, the lists of men liable to conscription are drawn up, and for the Christians, the numbers for whom the military exemption tax has to be paid.

It is well known that these lists are in most cases considerably in defect of the truth. The Moslems conceal their real numbers in order to evade conscription, whilst the Christians do the same in order to lessen the amount of exemption tax to be paid.

I have often talked the matter over with both Christians and Moslems, officials and non-officials, and I am of opinion that an addition of from 20 to 25 per cent. of the numbers given will generally give a near approximation to the true numbers.

In some districts, however, the lists are very much more carefully compiled than others; in the comparatively settled districts, such as the Sandjaks of Kharput, Erzeroum, Baiburt, I believe the official lists to be comparatively accurate; in other districts, such as the Deyrsim (south of Erzinjan), the Modkan country (in Mosh), the Nestorian country, and other parts of the Hakkiari Sandjak, districts which are in a chronic state of rebellion and semi-independence, the statistics are much less reliable. For instance, the greater part of the Nestorians pay no "bedel-askerieh" (military exemption tax); the nomad Kurds and the sedentary Kurds in the disturbed districts, and the tribal Arabs, do not give recruits to the army, and the official estimate of their number may possibly be very erroneous. In Van I believe some of the nomad Kurdish tribes are altogether omitted from the calculation.

The second Table (II) is a compilation from various authorities, which are detailed at the foot of the Table. I have extracted the figures with care from the various data

at my disposal, and have arranged them in as simple a form as practicable. The figures, I think, speak for themselves. I would, however, beg to call your Excellency's special attention to the discordant results of (3), (4), and (5), all of which have been supplied as various times, directly or indirectly, from the Armenian Patriarchate. When such large discrepancies are apparent in these three Armenian estimates of the Armenian population, it is perfectly evident that still less reliance can be placed on the corresponding estimates of the Mahommedan population (*vide* (15) and (18), Tables C and D). This would appear to be fully borne out by a comparison with the other data supplied.

Amongst other figures handed me by your Excellency was an estimate contained in an unsigned "Mémoire Succinct," dated the 22nd May, 1879, on the subject of reform in Armenia, in which the Armenian population of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Sivas, and Diarbekir is put at 2,000,000 souls, the Turks at 1,000,000, and the Kurds at 180,000.

It will be observed that in the Turkish official statistics all Moslems are put down under one common head, and no attempt is made to classify them into the sub-division of Turks proper, Kurds, Kuzzelbash, and Zaza, and Kizil-bash or Alevi Turks. Turkish officials for obvious reasons class all these under the common head of Islam, whereas, for equally obvious reasons, it is to the interest of the advocates of Armenian autonomy to sub-divide the Moslems into as many divisions as possible. In a memorandum I hope shortly to submit to your Excellency I shall enter more at length into the subject of the sub-divisions of both Moslems and non-Moslems throughout the frontier provinces of Turkey in Asia.

The third Table (No. III) may also be of some interest in showing that according to official statistics in no single sandjak is there a numerical preponderance of Christians over Mahommedans.

I have in my possession lists of the populations of the different cazas (sub-divisions), extracted from the official almanacks of the vilayets, and I find that, according to this authority, that in Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, and Diarbekir there are only seven cazas containing a Christian population numerically superior to the Moslem, viz.:—In the Van Vilayet, the Cazas of Van, Ilkhanerh, and Avrauan; in the Bitlis Vilayet, the Cazas of Mush, Kesset, Bulanyk; and in the Diarbekir Vilayet, Mislewi.

In conclusion, I would beg to point out that the official statistics give for the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis, a total Moslem population of 527,470, as against 387,091 Christians; for Diarbekir, 328,174 Moslem, against 87,695; and for Kharput, 337,788, against 91,760.

My own impression is that the relative proportions for Erzeroum, &c., are not very inaccurate, but that the Christian element in Diarbekir and Kharput, especially in the latter, is considerably under-estimated in the official estimate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

(Table I.)—OFFICIAL STATISTICS showing the Male Population of the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Bitlis, Van, Diarbekir, Aleppo, Kharput, Sivas, and Trebizond.

Name of Vilayet.	Name of Sandjak.	Armenians.			Greeks.		Syrians.			Jews.	Zinganis or Gypsies.	Total non-Mahommedan.	Total Mahommedan.	Grand Total.
		Grégorians.	Catholics.	Protestants.	Orthodox.	Catholics.	Nestorians.	Chaldeans.	Jacobites and Syrian Catholics.					
Erzeroum ..	Erdinjan	11,181	..	..	995	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,176	48,983	61,159
	Erzeroum	28,941	722	352	546	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,579	84,346	114,925
	Baiburt	4,702	1,656	..	1,856	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,214	41,649	49,863
	Bayazid	4,775	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,775	27,146	31,921
		49,599	2,380	352	3,396	..	..	1,401	75	..	..	55,707	202,074	257,811
Bitlis	Bitlis	66,444	..	324	..	..	..	509	215	..	..	68,007	121,593	189,767
	Sert	11,052	..	173	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,839	23,549	35,388
		77,496	..	497	..	..	..	1,803	230	..	..	80,146	145,009	225,155
							29,350	..	..	1,025	..	69,088	87,201	156,289
Van	Van and Hekkiari ..	89,013	100	..	..	..	..	159	845	142	..	15,767	32,297	48,064
							..	..	196	..	..	6,792	16,833	23,625
Diarbekir ..	Diarbekir	10,977	482	709	120	33	..	..	2,603	71	..	11,456	41,468	53,024
	Malatia	5,805	499	235	..	..	..	302						
	Mardin	6,788	1,539	221	..	..	..	761	3,737	216	..	32,155	140,533	172,688
		23,570	2,519	1,165	120	33	..	759	1,226	3,354	77	24,931	173,661	198,592
Aleppo	Aleppo	8,760	1,797	1,861	3,870	3,227	..	..	..	93	53	15,795	49,818	65,650
	Marash	12,083	1,773	1,489	278	..	..	..	775	127	197	7,182	46,369	53,551
	Orfa	5,312	353	418	..	..	..	759						
		26,135	3,923	3,769	4,148	3,227	..		2,001	3,572	327	47,851	269,851	317,702

Name of Vilayet.	Name of Sandjak.	Armenians.			Greeks.		Syrians.			Jews.	Zingalis or Gypsies.	Total non-Muhammedan.	Total Muhammedan.	Grand Total.
		Gregorians.	Catholics.	Protestants.	Orthodox.	Catholics.	Nestorians.	Chaldeans.	Jacobites and Syrian Catholics.					
Kharput	Kharput	31,574	700	1,502	416	251	..	..	231	..	..	34,754	76,871	110,625
	Arghana Maaden ..	9,669	120	437	524	..	..	..	202	189	..	11,141	93,023	104,164
		41,243	820	1,939	940	251	..	..	413	189	..	45,895	168,894	214,789
Sivas	Sivas	30,170	902	375	2,349	..	..	..	..	..	114	33,916	109,356	143,272
	Amasia	6,390	94	471	4,329	..	..	..	..	..	487	11,671	73,792	85,463
	Kara Hisar ..	8,322	..	..	7,661	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,983	42,107	58,150
	Tokat	5,889	384	30	2,959	..	..	..	..	103	205	9,040	57,728	67,308
		50,767	1,350	876	17,198	..	..	..	..	103	856	71,210	283,043	354,253
Trebisond ..	Trebisond ..	9,040	490	37	28,960	..	..	..	..	..	..	38,127	177,563	215,690
	Lazistan	24	..	..	254	..	..	..	..	..	..	277	70,100	70,377
	Djanik	7,903	..	..	25,077	..	..	..	..	..	..	32,980	95,199	128,179
	Gumush Khana ..	230	..	..	12,481	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,111	16,421	29,532
		18,196	490	37	66,772	..	..	..	..	..	..	86,495	349,283	434,778

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Inclosure 3 in No. 104.

Table II.—(A.) Comparative Table showing various Estimates of the Population of the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis (excluding Saert).

Authority.	Armenians, Gregorian, Catholic, Protestant.	Nestorians.	Greeks.	Jews.	Zingalis and Kinchors.	Turks and Circassians, &c.	Kurds Kurmandji.	Kurds Zaza.	Yezidis.	Totals.		Grand Total.
										Non-Moslems.	Moslems.[1]	
					Details not given.							
(1.) Mr. Holmes Dalzell, 1863	290,500	110,000	4,000	1,200	..	214,700	320,000	188,000	2,000	289,500	609,708	899,667
(2.) Mr. Consul Taylor, 1869	1,150,000	14,000	5,000	..	3,000[2]	400,000	80,000	35,000	13,000	405,700	721,700	1,130,400
(3.) Dalton Project, 1872	1,150,000	24,000[3]	3,420	368	35,000[4]	283,484[5]	273,000	67,360	3,827	1,172,000	528,000	1,700,000
(4.) Official in the Levant Herald, 1878	573,500	85,000	5,000	1,500	..	50,000	40,000	130,000[6]	20,000	632,963	567,573	1,200,536
(5.) Patriarch to Ambassador, 1880	410,500[7]	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	178,000	250,000	728,000
(6.) Vienna Memorial, 1877	..	53,940	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(7.) Paris Congress Report, 1880	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(8.) Colonel Soane	356,114	61,774	6,702	2,050	..	821,476				357,064	821,476	1,208,540

[1] Those included the Yezidis, or Devil-worshippers, counted (1.) Moslems, as I am informed they are so included in the official lists for purposes of conscription.
[2] Including 3,000 Kinchors.
[3] This includes 3,000 Poolias, Armenian-speaking gypsies, classed by Patriarch as Armenians.
[4] 218,584 Turks, 2,800 Circassians, 2,000 Laz, and 161 Persians.
[5] Includes 2% Copts.
[6] This includes 10,000 Alivis, or Kizilbash, classed as Armenians by the Patriarch, but, being mid-culturally Mussulmans (Shiahs), I counted them as such.
[7] Called Moslems in original Document.
N.B.—Figures in (3), (4), and (5) all derive from the Armenian Patriarchate.

(B.) Showing various Estimates of the Population of the Vilayet of Diarbekir (including Saert).

Authority.	Armenians.[1]	Syriacs.[2]	Greeks.	Jews.	Zingalis.	Turks, &c.	Kurds Kurmandji.	Kurds Zaza and Kizilbash.[3]	Arabs.	Yezidis.[4]	Totals.[5]	
											Non-Moslems.	Moslems.[6]
		Christians, 108,000										
(9.) Mr. Taylor, 1869	85,800	55,000[7]	5,000	1,000	..	15,000[8]	391,000[9]	12,500[10]	118,000	8,000[11]	109,000	514,500
(10.) Patriarch to Ambassador	76,958[12]	10,212	300	432	..	55,000[13]	30,000[14]	55,000[15]	..	8,000	149,800	113,000
(11.) Official figures, 1880	..	..	..	..	..	..	326,174	..	..	..	87,908	328,171
(12.) Salnama, 1879	..	19,200	870	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120,092	352,178
(13.) Private	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

[1] Including Gregorians, Catholics, and Protestants.
[2] Including Nestorians, Chaldeans, Jacobites or Old Syrians, and Syrian Catholics.
[3] Including Zaza or Kizilbash Kurds and Kizilbash Turks.
[4] Probably Kizilbash Turks.
[5] I have included the Yezidis amongst the Moslems.
[6] 30,000 Turks and 15,000 Tchetchens.
[7] It is not clear in original whether or no this estimate includes Zaza Kurds.
[8] The Patriarch apparently claims 40,000 Nestorians and 15,000 Syrian Catholics. There are, in point of fact, no Nestorians permanently resident in the Diarbekir Vilayet, but there are a number of Jacobites, or Old Syrians, and Chaldeans.
[9] 40,000 Turks and 15,000 Circassians.
[10] Called by Patriarch Arab-Kurds.
[11] The Patriarch claims 10,000 Alivis and 15,000 Kizilbash. Alivis and Kizilbash are, as far as I am aware, one and the same thing.
[12] The population of the Sanjak Sanidjik, recently transferred from Diarbekir to Bitlis, is included in this estimate.
[13] 40,000 Turks and 15,000 Circassians.
[14] Including Zaza Kurds.
[15] Called by Patriarch Arab-Kurds.

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(C.) Showing various Estimates of the Population of the Vilayet of Kharpút.

Authority.	Armenians.[2]	Syrians, &c.[3]	Greeks.[4]	Jews.	Zinganis.	Turks, Kurd	Kurds Kurmanjis.	Kurds Zaza and Kizilbash.	Arabs.	Yezidis.	Total. Non-Moslems.	Total. Moslems.
		130,000 Christians										
(14.) Mr. Taylor, 1860	150,000	5,000	5,000	..	5,000	360,000	360,000	60,000	..	..	170,000	420,000
(15.) Patriarch to Ambassador	83,200	920	3,852	378	..	70,000	50,000	..	..	..	120,000	120,000
(16.) Official figures	..	1,500	..	..	..	337,238	..	..	..	..	91,750	337,238
(17.) Private	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

[2] Including Gregorians, Catholics, and Protestants.
[3] Including Nestorians, Chaldeans, Jacobites, and Syrian Catholics.
[4] Including Turks and Circassians.
[5] Including 3,000 so-called Armenian Greeks.
[6] 60,000 Turks and 10,000 Circassians.
[7] Including 30,000 Zaza Kurds, 10,000 Afshars, and 15,000 Kizilbash.

(D.) Showing various Estimates of the Population of the Vilayet of Aleppo.

Authority.	Armenians.[2]	Syrians.[3]	Greeks.[4]	Jews.	Zinganis.	Turks, Kurd	Kurds Kurmanjis.	Kurds Zaza and Kizilbash.	Arabs.	Yezidis.	Totals. Non-Moslems.	Totals. Moslems.
(18.) Patriarch to Ambassador	5,000	100,000	6,000	..	5,000	80,000	40,000	15,000	..	..	205,500	135,000
(19.) Mr. Consul Skene, 1860	65,000	5,500	11,500	2,114	455	500,000	Approximately 530,702	..	..	..	100,000	400,000
(20.) Official figures	42,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95,702	365,712
(21.) Vahan Vartabed	..	1,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(22.) Private	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

[2] Including 5,000 Greeks.
[3] For corresponding notes to Table (C).
[4] Including 50,000 Turks, 10,000 Afshars, and 20,000 Turkomans.
[5] Called by Patriarch Arab-Kurds.
[6] 40,000 Nestorians and 60,000 Syrian Catholics.
[7] In point of fact, there are no Nestorians, and the number of Syrians generally appears to be vastly over-estimated.

Reference to Authorities (Table II).

(1.) Sir Robert Dalyell, 1863.—This gentleman was at one time Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum. The figures are abstracted from my own notes, which were extracted at Erzeroum from an old volume of Consular Reports (No. of volume unknown). The original estimate included the Sanjaks of Kars and Tchildyr, and excluded Erzinjan. To reduce to present limits I have subtracted Sir R. Dalyell's own estimate of the population of the two former districts, and have added the present official estimate of population of Erzinjan.

(2.) Mr. Consul Taylor, 1869.—Figures abstracted from Blue Book, Turkey, No. 16 (1877), pp. 27 and 31. Mr. Taylor was for several years Consul of Erzeroum and Diarbekir, and had travelled much in the frontier vilayets.

(3), (4), and (5) all derive nominally from the Armenian Patriarch; the figures in No. (3) are extracted from a pamphlet, printed in Armenian and French, which I obtained last year at Erzeroum, entitled "Projet de Réglement Organique pour l'Arménie Turque," 1878. I was given to understand that this document had been submitted unofficially to the Plenipotentiaries at Berlin, 1878. I have submitted a copy of this pamphlet to his Excellency the Ambassador.

(4.) Official to Sir C. Dilke, 1880.—Is abstracted from a document furnished me by Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary, being a confidential communication made to Sir Charles Dilke in June 1880. It is stated therein that the figures are taken from statistics of the Armenian provinces prepared by the Armenian Patriarch.

(5.) Patriarch to Ambassador, 1880.—These figures are abstracted from statistics officially supplied by the Armenian Patriarch during the current year to Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary. I believe that this document has already been printed at the Foreign Office, and it is therefore unnecessary to supply a copy here.

(6.) Vahan Vartabed.—These figures were supplied to me at Erzeroum in 1879 by Vahan Vartabed, an Agent of the Patriarchate, who was specially employed for several years in visiting the Armenian provinces and collecting statistics thereof.

(7.) Vice-Consul Clayton, 1880.—These figures were received by me from Captain Clayton whilst these Tables were being prepared. They are the result of current personal inquiries during a recent tour through the Nestorian country.

(8.) Official figures, 1880.—These figures are abstracted from Table I. They are the official figures that have been collected by his Excellency Baker Pasha on his recent tour of inspection. As far as the Provinces of Erzeroum and Van are concerned, these figures agree with the latest official statistics collected independently by myself during my recent tour in those provinces. The Province of Siert, recently transferred from Diarbekir to Bitlis, is not included in this estimate. As the official figures give the number of males only, they have to be multiplied by two, to give an approximation to the total population.

(9.) Mr. Taylor, 1879.—*Vide* note (2).

(10.) Patriarch to Ambassador.—*Vide* note (5).

(11.) *Vide* note (8). The Province of Siert which has very recently been taken from Diarbekir to form a part of the newly-formed Vilayet of Bitlis, has been (for convenience of comparison) included in the estimate of the Diarbekir Vilayet. I have serious misgivings as to the accuracy of the figures for Siert, which were supplied to General Baker by telegram. The number of Syrians (Jacobites) in the Mardin Sandjak have also, I think, been very much under estimated.

(12.) Salnáma, 1879.—These figures are derived from detailed statistics of population published in Diarbekir Salnáma, or Official Almanack, for 1297 (1879).

(13.) These figures are obtained from an approximative record of the number of houses of Syrian and Chaldean communities obtained by me from a non-official source last winter at Diarbekir. I have allowed six inhabitants to each house.

(14.) *Vide* note (2).

(15.) *Vide* note (5).

(16.) *Vide* note (8). I have no good check on these estimates. I think the number of Christians is under estimated.

(17.) *Vide* note (13).

(18.) *Vide* note (5).

(19.) Extracted from page 50 of Reports received from Her Majesty's Consuls relating to condition of Christians in Turkey, 1860. Mr. Consul Skene writes, "I should calculate the Christian population to be about one-fifth of the whole, and the Mahomedan four-fifths, with a trifling deduction for Jews, Druses, and Ansáris." The population of the province must in the aggregate be slightly under 500,000."

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major.*

Constantinople, September 7, 1880.

Table III.—Comparative Table showing various Estimates of the Populations of certain Sandjaks of the Frontier Vilayets.

		Moslems.	Non-Moslems.
Bayazid	(1)	27,560	5,810
	(2)	72,900	9,200
	(3)	57,900	9,900
	(7)	54,292	9,550
Bitlis and Mush	(1)	86,660	73,542
	(2)	86,100	48,300
	(4)	115,392	94,196
	(6)	114,396	93,786
	(7)	242,920 (a)	136,614 (a)
Diarbekir	(4)	111,936	49,656
	(5)	114,522	35,798
	(7)	64,594	27,534
Erzeroum	(3)	85,600	52,200
	(4 a)	173,802	59,374
	(4 b)	201,528	60,036
	(7)	168,692	61,140
Erzinjan	(3)	93,760	23,040
	(4 b)	91,994	22,628
	(4 c)	92,056	23,380
	(7)	97,[illegible]	24,352
Malatia	(5)	179,279	13,796
	(7)	133,666	13,464
Mardin	(4)	107,950*	38,478
	(5)	144,520	26,086
	(7)	82,816	23,232
Saert	(4)	117,245	39,972
	(5)	124,458	53,412
	(6)	164,374	48,206
	(7)	47,092	23,678
Van and Hakkiari	(2)	216,900	195,800
	(4 b)	256,570	208,808
	(6)	158,120	100,924
	(7)	171,408	138,976
	(8)	62,000†	213,000

* Including Yezidis.

† Including 2,000 Yezidis.

References.

(1.) Sir R. Daiyell, 1863.
(2.) Mr. Consul Taylor, 1869.
(3.) Mr. Consul Taylor, 1871.
(4.) Sal-nama, or official almanack, date unknown. Number of houses only are given in this Sal-nama; six persons have been allowed for each Christian, and five persons for each Moslem house.
(4 a.) Sal-nama year 1288.
(4 b.) Sal-nama year 1289.
(4 c.) Sal-nama year 1294.
(5.) Sal-nama year 1297 (1880).
(6.) Figures given by Yusuf Pasha, Imperial Commissary.
(7.) Official statistics. (General Baker.)
(8.) Ex-Patriarch Khrimian at Van.
(a.) The official estimate for Bitlis and Mush includes portions of territory taken from Erzeroum and Van to form the new Vilayet of Bitlis now in course of formation. It is not therefore comparable with the other figures.

No. 105.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received September 16, 7 P.M.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, September 16, 1880, 3·40 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 641.

I fear I can obtain nothing for the unfortunate Abkhasians. M. Jomini maintains they have no right to return without having first obtained leave, through a Russian Consul, to take advantage of the amnesty granted after the war. They deserted to the Turks, and most of them probably fought against Russia.

I pleaded with him, in the name of humanity, to do something to prevent them starving. He promised to make inquiries, but says that Russia must maintain the principle of refusing to receive such immigrants unless they have previously complied with regulations.

I have sent in a further note to-day to M. Jomini, with details received from Her Majesty's Consul at Tiflis.

No. 106.

Earl Granville to Major Trotter.

(No. 22.)

Foreign Office, September 16, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received and communicated to Lady Strangford and the Turkish Aid Society your despatch No. 22, Political, of the 5th ultimo, and I have to express my approval of the strenuous exertions which you and your colleagues, Captains Everett and Clayton, have made for the relief of the famine-stricken districts in Eastern Anatolia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 107.

Earl Granville to Consul Lyall.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 18, 1880, 2·50 P.M.

RUSSIAN Government have promised to make inquiry respecting Abkhasians at Batoum, but maintain the principle of refusing to receive back such Russian subjects who deserted to Turkey during the war unless they have previously obtained leave through a Russian Consul to take advantage of the amnesty.

No. 108.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19, 7·20 P.M.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, September 19, 1880, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 169, Baron Jomini writes that matter has been referred to the Governor-General of the Caucasus, but that in the meantime local authorities have been instructed to feed the Abkhasian refugees during their stay at Batoum.

Russian Ambassador has been instructed to call attention of the Porto to necessity of putting an end to this state of things.

No. 109.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 492.) *Foreign Office, September 20, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 319 of the 3rd instant, and I approve the mode suggested by Colonel Wilson, in the letters therein inclosed, for testing the statistics of the populations of the Trebizond and Adana Vilayets.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 110.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 493.) *Foreign Office, September 20, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 339 of the 7th instant, inclosing copies of despatches from Major Warlow and Lieutenant Chermside with regard to the condition of the refugees in their Consular districts, and reporting the representations you have made to the Turkish authorities upon the subject of the deplorable condition of these poor people.

I have to acquaint your Excellency that your proceedings in this matter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 111.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 351.) *Therapia, September 14, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, inclosing accounts of the sums disbursed by him on account of the famine relief funds, and reporting upon the present condition and prospects of the country.

I also inclose copies of two documents which have been communicated to me by the Armenian Patriarch on the subject of the famine in Armenia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 9. Commercial.) *Van, August 16, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you the measures taken by me for the relief of famine, and to inclose accounts of receipts and expenditure on account of famine relief funds up to the present date.

Up to the beginning of April I had received for relief purposes 400*l.* sterling, equivalent to 440 Turkish liras, which I expended partly in the purchase of corn for distribution, partly in establishing and carrying on, with the aid of the American missionaries, a soup kitchen in Van, and partly in works of road repairing, on which I employed a number of refugees who had come into Van from the country. The items of expenditure of this 400*l.* are shown in Account No. 1.

On the 16th June I received a telegram from the Ambassador authorizing me to draw 500*l.*, and on the 2nd July I received a telegram from the Embassy from Mr. St. John advising me that 200 liras out of the proceeds of a concert held in Constantinople had been allotted to Van. I was requested to draw this sum and hand it over to the senior Consul here, who, in concert with the other Consular Officers, was to decide how it should be spent, irrespective of race or religion. The Persian and

Russian Consuls accordingly met at my house by my invitation, and it was decided that 50 liras each should be given to the Turkish and Armenian Charitable Committees, and that, as I was about to start for Hakkiari, where the greatest need prevailed, I should take the remainder with me, and distribute it there with the other funds at my disposal. Therefore, when I started for Hakkiari, I had 500*l.* sterling and 100 liras at my disposal. I had also at my disposal 135 chaps of corn, bought by you at Bitlis, and handed over to me.

On reaching Bashkala I received the reports of the Agents I had previously dispatched to obtain information about the condition of the Bashkala region.

From their reports I extract the following figures:—

In district of Upper Albak there were:

		Destitute.
District of Upper Albak.		
7 villages (Kurdish and Armenian) containing		2,021
District of Sou-Albak.		
24 villages, principally Kurdish, containing		3,104
District of Shiveran.		
37 Kurdish villages (1 Nestorian, 2 or 3 mixed) containing		2,959
District of Chalderan.		
23 villages (5 Nestorian, remainder Kurd) containing		2,237
Near Bashkala.		
2 villages containing		110
93 villages.	Total destitute souls	10,441

I found also a great deal of distress in Bashkala town itself, but the epidemic that was at one time threatening had happily passed away.

For the relief of this distress I took the following measures:

Out of the corn I had already sent to Bashkala I directed 4 okes a-head to be given to the inhabitants of Bashkala, according to lists given in by the several nationalities, as follows:—

	Families.	Souls.
Moslems	65	258
Armenians	55	278
Jews	56	230
Total	175	766

The remainder of the corn that was to come from Van I ordered to be distributed to the villages, according to the number of destitute persons in each.

Hearing that the Government were about to distribute a small sum of money to the famine-stricken villagers, I handed over 100 liras to be added to this. I also made a contract for a quantity of supplies to be procured from Persia, and left 115 liras with my Agent at Bashkala, that he might be able to buy grain as favourable opportunities presented themselves. All these supplies were to be distributed among the suffering villagers without regard to nationality or creed.

From Bashkala I proceeded to Govver, and found that in that part of the country, though there was present suffering, yet supplies were coming in rapidly from Persia, and the harvest, though it would not suffice for the wants of the ensuing year, yet would not fall utterly short.

In Diza I spent 84 liras in the purchase of supplies to be divided among the most needy of the population—Turks, Kurds, Nestorians, Armenians, and Jews—and also gave 10 liras to the Moslem Committee.

From Govver I proceeded to Shemdina, but found that that region had not suffered much from famine, and the harvest had already begun, so there was no want there.

I next went to Kockhannes, to Mar Shimoun, and handed over to him the 50 liras entrusted to me by you for that purpose. In the Caza of Julumerik I was told the suffering had become severe during the winter; but it was now relieved, and the harvest, though scanty, would be much better than last year, and not so insufficient as will be the case in Bashkala and Mahmoudié.

From Kockhannes I returned to Van.

Besides the amount expended as above-mentioned, I personally distributed 44 liras among the villages I visited.

The items of expenditure for famine purposes from the beginning of July are shown in account No. 2.

I also inclose an account showing how the corn obtained from the other side of the Lake of Van has been distributed.

As regards the present condition of the country and the prospects of the ensuing year, I fear that in the Cazas of Bashkala and Mahmoudié there will continue to be great distress. The harvest this year will again be totally insufficient for the wants of the population on account of the small area sown, and the people have already parted with all their goods to keep themselves alive up to the present time, so that they have nothing with which to purchase corn, were it ever so cheap and plentiful. In this the Kurds are far worse off than the Christians. There will no doubt continue to be great emigration from these districts. I hear also that from Nurduz and Shaddakh there will be more emigration, as there also the harvest will not suffice, and those who have not enough to live on through through the winter do not intend this year to await it, but will emigrate and try if they can better their condition elsewhere.

In Gevver and Julamerik there will no doubt be poverty and distress again this winter, but not to such an extent, as far as I can judge, as to amount to famine.

In the rest of the Vilayet of Van and in the greater part of that of Bitlis the harvest is very good, and there will be considerable supplies available, but I am not sure whether the surplus will be sufficient to bring down prices to their normal level. I am rather inclined to fear not, as people, apprehensive of another famine, will be inclined rather to hoard their grain than to bring it into market.

On the 10th August I received a telegram from you placing 1,000*l.* at my disposal. I have not yet expended any of this, but I propose to use the greater part of it for providing grain for Mahmoudié and Bashkala, if possible to be used as seed, so as to prevent a third short harvest from occurring.

I have much pleasure in adding that the people express great gratitude to the English nation for the generous aid that they have afforded, and I hope that you will convey this expression of gratitude to Lady Strangford, who has exerted herself so energetically and successfully in obtaining assistance for the suffering people of these countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

(Account No. 1.)—FAMINE Fund Receipts and Expenditure to 30th June, 1880.

1880.	Receipts.	£ Sterling.	£ Turkish.	Silver Piastres.*	Expenditure.	£ Turkish.	Silver Piastres.*
Feb. 20	Placed at disposal of Captain Clayton by Major Trotter	100	110	..	Given to Rev. Mr. Knapp for distribution at Bitlis	25	..
	Ditto, by Sir A. H. Layard	300	330	..	Purchase of corn	180	634
					Carriage and expenses of transport of corn to Van	10	20½
					Commissions paid on cashing cheques ..	8	52½
					Telegrams	..	97½
					Given to Nestorian refugees	1	60½
					Paid to American Missionaries for share of expenses of soup kitchen, and of corn ordered jointly	186	011
					Relief works	18	78
	Total	400	440	..	Total	440	00

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, *Captain, R.A.*,
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Van.

Inclosure 3 in No. 111.

(Account No. 2.)—FAMINE Fund Receipts and Expenditure from the 1st July to the 15th August, 1880.

1880.	Receipts.	£ Sterling.	£ Turkish.	Silver Piastres.*	Expenditure.	£ Turkish.	Silver Piastres.*
June 16	Placed at disposal of Captain Clayton by Right Hon. G. J. Goschen ..	500	550	..	To Armenian Committee from concert funds	50	..
July 2	Proceeds of Diplomatic Concert sent by F. R. St. John, Esq., British Embassy	..	200	..	To Mussulman ditto, from ditto ..	50	..
					To Bashkala Government, for distribution	100	..
					Contract for supplies from Persia for Bashkala	167	89
					Cash given to agent at Bashkala to buy grain at favourable opportunities ..	135	..
					Grain bought at Diza	84	18
					Given to Moslem Committee, Diza ..	50	..
					Distributed personally to villages ..	41	..
					Commissions on cashing cheques ..	36	..
					Telegrams	..	32
					Expenses of transport and distribution of corn	36	160
					Balance in hand	61	69
	Total	500	750	..	Total	750	09

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, *Captain, R.A.*,
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Van.

Inclosure 4 in No. 111.

ACCOUNT showing how Corn purchased in Boulanyk and El Jivas has been Distributed.

	Chaps
To Bashkala and region	348
,, Shaddakh ,, ...	51½
,, Nurduz ,, ...	33
,, Pergri ,, ...	120
Distributed in small quantities	114
Used in soup kitchen	44
Total	588½

This quantity includes the 135 chaps purchased by Major Trotter and handed over to me, and also that bought jointly by me and the American missionaries. The missionaries have besides allotted 350*l.* for relief purposes in Nurduz and Shaddakh.

This account, however, does not include the supplies purchased and ordered by me at Bashkala and Diza during my recent visit to Hakkiari, the distribution of which is explained in the body of the despatch No. 9 c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, *Captain, R.A.*,
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Van.

August 16, 1880.

Inclosure 5 in No. 111.

Mémoire présenté à sa Sainteté Mgr. Nersès, Patriarche des Arméniens de la Turquie, par le Comité Central Arménien de Secours aux Affamés de l'Arménie.

LES principaux centres de la famine de la Turquie d'Asie, sur lesquels le Comité Central Arménien a dirigé ses secours sont les localités suivantes:—

La plaine de Passen, Bayazid, Alachguerd, Toprak-Kalé, Kara-Kilissé, Bache-Kalé, Aghpag, Van, Mouche, Bitlis, Seghert, Diarbékir, Moussoul, Mardin, les villages d'Eskiehir, de Biledjik, de Brousse, de Nicomédie.

Cette famine, qui dure encore, est le résultat de causes multiples, telles que:—

1. Guerre et ses contributions;
2. Pillages, accompagnés de destructions;

* Silver piastres are converted into £ Turkish at the rate of 105 piastres per £ Turkish.

3. Sécheresse;
4. Comblement des canaux d'irrigation;
5. Ailleurs pluies continues torrentielles, inondations;
6. Grêle;
7. Sauterelles; rats des champs;
8. Exportation imprudente de céréales;
9. Manque de voies de communication morale et matérielle entre les producteurs;
10. Déchaînement de l'esprit de spéculation;
11. Dépréciation du bechlik et du caïmé;
12. Hiver exceptionnellement rigoureux;
13. Perte d'animaux de toute espèce, par le froid, la faim, et les épizooties;
14. Manque de sel;
15. Perception incessante, continuelle, de toute sorte de taxes et d'impôts arriérés, quelquefois par voie de saisie des matières alimentaires.

Les provinces affamées étant en grande partie contiguës, leurs populations ont, pour ainsi dire, rencontré, même créé la famine partout où elles se sont portées.

Aujourd'hui de nombreux districts qui avaient eu les récoltes les plus abondantes, se trouvent rangés parmi les localités affamées, par la fatale combinaison des causes susmentionnées.

D'après les notions statistiques que le Comité Central Arménien possède aujourd'hui, par le moyen de questionnaires analogues qu'il a dans le temps adressés à toutes les localités affamées, la famine, sous différents aspects, durera malheureusement encore, car la récolte de céréales, quoique bonne en général dans la Turquie d'Asie, est cependant insuffisante dans toutes les provinces affamées, où l'on n'a semé que le huitième de ce qu'on semait d'ordinaire en céréales.

Outre cette insuffisance de récoltes qui manquent totalement dans bien des arrondissements, les sauterelles ont de plus détruit celles de beaucoup d'autres circonscriptions.

Conséquemment, les populations de presque toutes les provinces affamées, pour suppléer au manque de leur propre produit, sont obligées aujourd'hui de se porter à d'immenses distances.

Or, en leur supposant des moyens pour acheter des céréales (ce qui serait supposer l'impossible), ces malheureuses populations en seront toujours privées vu qu'elles manquent d'animaux transporteurs, dont l'hiver, l'inanition, l'épizootie ont enlevé tantôt la moitié, tantôt presque la totalité.

Le Comité Central Arménien a déjà distribué aux nécessiteux des localités susmentionnées plus de £ T. 22,000, soit plus de 500,000 fr.

Le Comité, tout en considérant les Arméniens de tous les cultes comme égaux devant sa mission, malgré sa composition toute Arménienne, malgré la provenance de ses ressources en grande partie Arménienne, a toujours affecté un quart de ses fonds aux nécessiteux Syriens, Chaldéens, Grecs, Turcs, et Kurdes.

Le Comité Central Arménien possède aujourd'hui autant de Comités de Distribution qu'il y a de centres de famine.

Quant à ses Comités collecteurs ils sont au nombre de plus de 200.

Ces Comités, tant collecteurs que distributeurs, sont composés d'Arméniens, appartenant à tous les cultes.

Suivant les calculs approximatifs basés sur les listes encore incomplètes qui sont parvenues à son bureau, le nombre des nécessiteux secourus par ce Comité Central Arménien, doit monter à environ 40,000.

Les cas de mort signalés parmi les Arméniens durant la période de la famine, s'élèvent à plus de 2,000. Quant aux décès dus aux maladies contractées durant la famine, ils sont incalculables.

Ces maladies sont: La dyssenterie, le typhus, et certaines infirmités hideuses et épidémiques communiquées aux êtres humains par l'usage de la chair d'animaux morts d'épizootie.

Le Comité Central Arménien possède un Hôpital et un Orphelinat à Van, desservis par deux médecins philanthropes, qui ne manquent pas de faire des tournées dans les villages environnants.

Les services du Comité Central Arménien consistent:
1. En distribution de vivres, rarement d'argent;
2. En distribution de blé de millet pour semailles au printemps;
3. En distribution d'animaux de labour;
4. En essai de plantation de pommes de terre;

5. En distribution d'instructions pour cette culture, à 20,000 exemplaires, en langue Turque et Arménienne.

Aujourd'hui, ce Comité, par les notions qu'il a acquises sur le véritable état de la famine, convaincu de la présence simultanée de la disette de vivres aussi bien que du numéraire fait une émission de billets de secours dans le monde charitable.

Il compte par ce moyen arriver à pouvoir donner de quoi semer à l'agriculteur indigent, l'approvisionner pendant l'hiver en instituant des greniers sur toute la ligne de la domination de ce fléau, et introduire l'idée d'une culture économique et centralisée dans ces malheureuses contrées.

Constantinople, le 1er Août, 1880.

Inclosure 6 in No. 111.

Mgr. Krimian to the Central Armenian Relief Committee.

Le 18 Juin, 1880 (v.s.).

(Extrait.)

A PARTIR du mois dernier la famine a pris une proportion effroyable. Jusqu'ici c'étaient les pauvres qu'avait attaqués le fléau, mais aujourd'hui c'est la classe aisée de la ville qui se trouve en souffrance: en un mot, la privation et de dénûment règnent partout.

On voit chaque jour une foule immense accourir à l'Archevêque criant de haute voix, "Du pain, du pain!" Or, il faut encore un mois jusqu'à l'époque des récoltes.

La vie et les biens des villageois sont en grand danger. Surtout les villages situés à l'est de Van jusqu'à Bach-Kalé, qui sont infestés par des bandes de brigands. Hier encore le village Haspsdan, dans le district d'Aghpex, a été attaqué par ces derniers, qui ont enlevé plus d'un millier de moutons, sans compter d'autres bestiaux. Les populations au désespoir viennent en masse dans la ville. Ce que nous avons peine à vous expliquer, c'est que tout cela se passe alors que nous avons un Gouverneur, un Muchir militaire, et des Commissaires, qui semblent rester comme de simples spectateurs en présence des faits aussi regrettables, et qui ne paraissent montrer aucun succès, afin de sévir contre les nombreux actes de déprédations des Kurdes Persans.

Sa Sainteté le Patriarche a beau adresser sans cesse des Takrirs, pour inviter l'attention de la Porte sur le triste état des choses. La Porte n'y croit jamais, si bien que c'est encore que le nouveau Sadrazam, voulant s'enquérir des choses par le canal des Commissaires, a demandé à ceux-ci s'il était vrai que les Kurdes incommodaient les Arméniens. A notre avis il serait beaucoup plus juste de demander si ce n'est pas en réalité le Gouvernement de Van qui ravage cette partie du territoire Ottoman.

En effet, ce serait une grande injustice que d'imputer tout cela aux Kurdes, qui ne sont après tout que de faibles instruments adroitement manœuvrés dans une main invisible.

Vous nous donnez des ordres d'acheter 400 bœufs; nous en avons acheté pour le moment 200 destinés aux villageois d'Aglipak, mais qui nous garantirait que ces bestiaux ne seraient pas bientôt la proie des bandes Kurdes? car il y a longtemps que la sécurité est bannie de nos pays.

Le Cheik Kurde . . . . . déploie avec adresse de grands zèles tendant à amener une entente intime entre tous les Chefs Kurdes afin d'établir ainsi une ligue contre les Arméniens. C'est là sans doute une inspiration funeste qui vient certainement de haut lieu, et qui a pour but de voir l'Arménie convertie en pays Kurde et les Arméniens émigrés et anéantes totalement ou tout au moins en minorité par rapport aux Kurdes. Ces derniers sont furieux de constater chez eux à l'occasion de la famine une mortalité considérable dépassant quarante fois celle des Arméniens. Ces misérables ne veulent pas comprendre que les Kurdes ne sont ni cultivateurs ni laborieux.

No. 112.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 352.)

Therapia, September 14, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 344 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Henderson forwarding a statement of the population of the vilayet of Aleppo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 23.)

Aleppo, August 28, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 24th ultimo, and in reply I beg to inclose a statement of the population of the vilayet (exclusive of Mutessariflik of Dayer, composed exclusively of sedentary and nomad Arab tribes), and accompanied by an explanatory memorandum of the non-Mussulman sects and their schools.

The figures in this statement have been copied from the Government Register as prepared last year for the assessment of the taxes.

I was unprepared to find so large a Mussulman population. According to this statement the proportion of the Christian to the Mussulman population is about 17 per cent., but I believe it to be considerably higher.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

STATEMENT of the Population of the Vilayet of Aleppo (from the Government Registers), exclusive of the Sandjak of Dayer.

Eutychian Armenians	77,397	
Roman Catholic ditto	11,679	
Orthodox Greeks	12,204	
Roman Catholic ditto	10,257	
Jacobite Syrians	2,778	
Roman Catholic ditto	3,060	
Maronites	2,484	
Latins	813	
Protestants	11,265	
Total Christians		131,877
Jews	10,410	
Druses	35,000	
Sabians	40,000	
Yezidis	10,000	
Turks, Circassians, Kurds, Arabs, and other Mussulmans	712,964	
		797,964
Grand total		940,251

Explanatory Memorandum to accompany Approximate Return of Population of the Vilayet of Aleppo.

THE non-Mussulman classes of the population of North Syria are composed of various Christian sects, and of Jews, Druses, Yezidis, and Sabians.

Some of these communities are progressing in education, while others have remained stationary from time immemorial.

Only a few of them have as yet even entered on the path of political improvement, and none of them, except the Armenian Christians, are in the least degree imbued with aspirations tending towards the assertion of national independence.

The Syrian Church, called also the Jacobite Church from Jacob of Arfa, who preached in the sixth century the monophysite doctrine, which it still professes, has dwindled down at Aleppo to a single family under the ministration of two priests. There is no school attached to this Church, which has been reduced in number by secession to the Church of Rome, retaining nothing of the original form of worship excepting the ancient Syriac language, as spoken in the time of Jesus Christ, under the name of Western Aramaic. In it were written the Peshito version of the Gospel, and the liturgy of the Syrian Church.

In the Roman Catholic section of this Church there are two schools, at one of which 120 children are taught Arabic, and at the other 50 older boys learn Turkish, Italian, French, arithmetic, and geography.

The Greek Church also bears the name of the Melekite Church from its having been that of the Melek, King, or Emperor of Byzantium. It has likewise been very much diminished in numbers by the secession of those who have acknowledged the supremacy of the Pope, adopted the Gregorian instead of the Julian Calendar, and preferred the celibacy of their priests, but without admitting in their creed the filioque of Rome, or using any other liturgy than that of the Orthodox Greek Church.

The school of the latter sect contains 120 pupils, who learn the Greek, Turkish, and Arabic languages. The schools of the Greek Roman Catholic Church are three in number, but nothing is taught at them further than the Arabic language. In one of them there are 130 boys, in another 100, and in the third there are 100 girls.

The Chaldean Church, which claims to have been founded by St. Peter at Babylon, was easily induced by the Dominican Monks at Moossul to acknowledge the supremacy of St. Peter's successors at Rome, and it is now one of those called Roman Catholic at Aleppo.

It has only one priest, who teaches Arabic to a school containing fifteen children of both sexes.

The Church of Rome is represented at Aleppo by two Monasteries, those of the Franciscans and of the Jesuits, and by two convents, one of the Sisterhood of the Sacred Heart.

The Franciscan Friars have a school, at which 120 boys are taught Arabic, French, and Italian by them, with arithmetic, geography, history, and commercial book-keeping.

The Sisters of St. Joseph teach Arabic and French to 200 girls in three schools, and those of the Sacred Heart teach Arabic and French to 200 girls in three schools, and those of the Sacred Heart teach Arabic alone to 240 girls under the direction of the Jesuit priests.

The Maronite Church, whose tenets are identical with those of the Church of Rome, excepting as regards the celibacy of the secular clergy, takes its name from the Monk Maro, who founded several monasteries on Mount Lebanon in the fifth century. Many of the Syrian Christians, not accepting the monothilite heresy in the seventh century, collected round those monasteries, and were thus called Maronites. At Aleppo there is a large community of them, and they have a school, at which the Arabic, Turkish, and French languages are taught to 170 boys.

The Armenian Church, according to Eusebius, derived its origin from conversion by the Apostle Thaddeus, sent for that purpose by Christ himself to Algar, one of the Arsacian Kings of Armenia, together with a likeness of the Saviour painted on cotton cloth and said to have been preserved for several centuries in the Church at Orfa. Whatever authority there may be for this tradition recorded by the historian of the early Christian era, it is certain that the Armenian Church was one of the first established, as the greatest of a long preceding line of their Bishops, St. Gregory the Illuminator, took part in the Council of Nice in the beginning of the fourth century.

The Armenian Church is now divided into three communities, the Eutychian, the Roman Catholic, and the Protestant. The first of these has two schools, at which 120 boys and 25 girls are taught the Arabic, Turkish, and Armenian languages. The Roman Catholic section has two schools, at one of which 100 boys are taught the same languages, and at the other 30 girls receive a similarly limited amount of instruction. The Protestant Armenians, who have formed a community under the direction of American Congregationalist Missionaries, support only a small school at Aleppo, where 20 boys are taught Arabic; but they have excellent educational establishments in the neighbouring town of Aintab.

Three schools, with 9 teachers and 980 pupils of both sexes, are open there, and at those schools good instruction is given in reading and writing, Turkish, Armenian, and English, in arithmetic, in history, and in geography.

For more advanced studies they have a large new college with one American and two Armenian teachers and four native teachers. There are already, it is said, eighty youths in it, fourteen of whom are medical and twenty theological students. The course of lectures is to occupy four years, and degrees will be taken in the various classes of science, philosophy, literature, history, and political economy.

The Jews of Aleppo boast of being descended from those who were expelled from Spain in the beginning of the sixteenth century, after having done so much for the prosperity and enlightenment of that country. They talk with pride of Isaac of Cordova, of Benjamin of Tunis, Hasdai, the friend of Abverahman, the greatest of the Moorish kings of Spain, and many other distinguished Israelites of Granada. They brought to the Levant that commercial activity and intelligence, the loss of

which was so much felt in the western marts of the Mediterranean. In his religion the Aleppo Jew is, as St. Paul says of himself before his conversion, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, and his traditional pertinacity on the subject of genealogies goes so far as to show the greatest respect for a poor family at Aleppo, which is asserted to be lineally descended in the male line from King David.

There are two excellent Jewish schools for boys and girls, at each of which forty pupils receive a good education in all its branches.

The Druses occupy a range of mountains called Jibel Ala, stretching westward from near Aleppo to the upper valley of the Orontes. They keep up a close connection and intercourse with the Druses of Mount Lebanon by means of messengers, who are constantly coming and going on foot between the two branches of their sect. Its origin was due to Hakim, one of the Fatimiate Caliphs of Egypt in the eleventh century, who declared himself to be an incarnate deity, and founded a community of believers in his two cardinal theories of the utter unimportance of all human actions and the total superfluousness of all religion. They have no schools, and remain precisely as they were when they first settled in Syria.

The Yezidis are of Kurdish race, and are to be found on the Jibel Knd, extending northward from the plain of Antioch to the foot of Mount Taurus. They have been called Devil worshippers, but they say that they only make offerings to propitiate the spirit of evil, whom they name King Peacock, and to whose malignant agency they ascribe all the misfortunes that befall them. It seems probable that this species of worship is merely a vestige of the doctrine of Zoroaster remaining among some of the Kurds from the time when Kurdistan formed part of the Persian Empire. Akriman, the spirit of evil of the Zend Avesta, having been noted for his pride like Lucifer, and being aptly represented as a peacock, while the name of Yezidis may have been derived from the Persian oasis of Yezd, where the followers of Zoroaster were in the greatest force.

No attempt has ever been made to raise them by education above the low level of pastoral marauders.

The Sabians inhabit in considerable numbers the lower valley of the River Orontes and along the sea-coast to the north of Mount Casino as far as the port of Alexandretta, which is almost entirely peopled by them. They are divided into two sects, the worshippers of the sun and the worshippers of the moon, both bearing the name of Ansairch. There can be little doubt that they are a remnant of the ancient Phœnicians driven out of their cities of Hamath and Aradus by the Saracens, and continuing their adoration of Baal and Ashtaroth, the Apollo and Venus of Syria, in obscure corners of the neighbouring country. More than once the idea of improving them has been entertained and schools have ever been established among them, but unfortunately without the least success.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 113.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 354.)

Therapia, September 14, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 236 of the 10th ultimo, and to your Lordship's telegram of the 30th ultimo, I have now the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the collective note, dated the 7th September, which was presented to the Porte on the 11th instant, in reply to their communication of the 5th July, on the question of the reforms to be introduced into the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, under Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have caused a careful translation to be made of this note, which is likewise forwarded herewith.

It has been necessary slightly to alter one or two passages in the note as compared with the original draft submitted to your Lordship with my despatch No. 236, as, at the time when the draft was prepared, allusion was made to the work of the Eastern Roumelian Commission as still pending, whereas now it has been concluded; but the change is only verbal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 113.

Collective Note addressed to the Porte.

Constantinople, le 7 Septembre, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

LES Soussignés ont reçu la note en date du 5 Juillet dernier, par laquelle la Sublime Porte a répondu au paragraphe de leur communication du 11 Juin, relatif aux améliorations et aux réformes administratives que le Gouvernement Ottoman s'est engagé, par l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, à introduire dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens. Une étude attentive de ce document leur a prouvé que les propositions formulées par le Gouvernement Ottoman ne répondent ni à l'esprit ni à la lettre de cet Article. Les Puissances représentées par les Soussignés n'ignorent pas que le Gouvernement Ottoman a envoyé deux Commissions dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens; mais elles ont des raisons de penser que ces missions n'ont abouti à aucun résultat, et la Porte, contrairement aux obligations résultant pour elle de l'Article LXI, s'est abstenue de les porter à leur connaissance.

Rien ne prouve qu'une amélioration quelconque ait été introduite dans l'administration de la justice. De nombreux Rapports Consulaires établissent, au contraire, que la situation actuelle, au point de vue de l'indépendance des Tribunaux Civils ou Criminels est aussi peu satisfaisante sinon pire que par le passé.

En ce qui concerne la gendarmerie et la police, la note du 5 Juillet affirme que la Porte a invité plusieurs officiers spéciaux à présenter des projets de réforme de ces deux services. Les Puissances n'ont pas eu connaissance de ces projets, et le Gouvernement Ottoman n'est même pas en état d'affirmer qu'ils lui aient été présentés.

Les Soussignés ne sauraient donc admettre que la réponse de votre Excellence ait donné la moindre satisfaction aux plaintes formulées dans leur note du 11 Juin. Ils se croient d'ailleurs d'autant plus autorisés à réduire à leur juste valeur les efforts tentés à ce point de vue par le Gouvernement Ottoman, que la Porte, à en juger par cette même réponse, se rend évidemment un compte moins exact de la situation et des obligations que lui impose le Traité de Berlin.

Les termes mêmes dans lesquels la Sublime Porte a cru pouvoir s'expliquer sur les crimes commis, ou signalés comme ayant été commis, dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens, prouvent qu'elle se refuse à reconnaître le degré d'anarchie qui règne dans ces provinces, et la gravité d'un état de choses, dont la prolongation entraînerait, selon toute vraisemblance, l'anéantissement des populations Chrétiennes dans de vastes districts.

La note du 5 Juillet ne formule aucune proposition sérieuse tendant à mettre un terme aux excès des Circassiens et des Kurdes. Il est cependant à craindre que ces excès ne puissent être prévenus par l'application des lois communes. Des mesures de rigueur exceptionnelles peuvent seules mettre un terme à des violences qui, sur plusieurs points des provinces désignées par l'Article LXI, sont un perpétuel danger pour les biens, l'honneur, et la vie des Arméniens.

Par l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin la Porte s'est engagée "à réaliser sans plus de retard les améliorations et les réformes qu'exigent les besoins locaux dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens." Les Soussignés ont le regret de constater que les réformes générales indiquées par la note du 5 Juillet ne tiennent aucun compte des "besoins locaux" que signale l'Article précité. Les Puissances accueilleront sans doute avec satisfaction l'introduction de larges réformes dans toutes les parties de l'Empire Ottoman; mais elles tiennent avant tout à l'entière exécution du Traité de Berlin, et elles ne peuvent admettre que la Porte se considère comme libérée des engagements qu'elle a contractés de ce chef en proposant une réorganisation dans laquelle ne figure aucune des réformes spéciales stipulées au profit des provinces spécifiées par ce même Traité. Le caractère particulier de ces provinces étant, d'ailleurs, la prédominance de l'élément Chrétien dans des districts d'une grande étendue, toute réforme qui ne tiendrait pas compte de ce fait ne saurait aboutir à un résultat satisfaisant.

Les Soussignés estiment qu'il est également indispensable de tenir compte d'une autre particularité que présentent ces mêmes provinces. La Porte paraît vouloir appliquer un même règlement aux Arméniens et aux Kurdes. Il convient, avant tout, de les séparer administrativement, autant que cela est pratiquement possible, vu l'impossibilité absolue de régir de la même manière les populations sédentaires et des tribus à demi-nomades. La distribution des communes et des groupes administratifs

en général, devrait par suite, se faire de façon à réunir le plus d'éléments homogènes possibles; elle devrait tendre à grouper les Arméniens ou, au besoin, les Arméniens et les Turcs, en excluant les Kurdes. Par suite encore l'élément Kurde nomade, vivant dans les montagnes et ne descendant dans les plaines habitées par les Chrétiens que pour y porter le désordre, ne devrait pas être compris dans les relevés statistiques qui détermineront la majorité des habitants dans chaque commune.

On peut supposer que la Sublime Porte a vu dans l'organisation communale proposée par la note du 5 Juillet le moyen de créer des groupes administratifs du premier degré dans lesquels la grande majorité des habitants appartiendrait à la même religion. Rien n'indique toutefois dans ce document que la Porte s'engage à appliquer ce principe.

Les Soussignés constatent avec satisfaction que le Chef d'une commune, dans l'organisation projetée, doit appartenir à la communauté religieuse prépondérante; mais l'absence d'une disposition analogue s'appliquant aux fonctionnaires d'un rang plus élevé, prouve jusqu'à l'évidence que les réformes proposées ne tiennent pas un compte suffisant des "besoins locaux" des provinces désignées par l'Article LXI.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman déclare "qu'il a déjà admis aux fonctions publiques des personnes honnêtes et capables, sans distinction de culte, et que désormais ce fait recevra une application plus large encore. Cette déclaration est extrêmement vague, et les Soussignés pensent qu'il est d'autant plus nécessaire d'insister sur ce point que les Arméniens affirment que, dans les provinces où ils se trouvent en très-grand nombre, il n'y a presque pas d'Arméniens dans les fonctions publiques. Leurs réclamations à cet égard paraissent d'autant plus légitimes qu'il pourrait se faire que la Sublime Porte plaçât à la tête de ces provinces des Gouverneurs Chrétiens sans qu'il en résultât une plus grande certitude, pour les Arméniens, de rencontrer plus d'équité et de justice dans l'Administration.

Des mesures d'un caractère beaucoup plus large que celles qu'indique la note du Gouvernement Ottoman sont donc nécessaires pour que la Porte s'acquitte des engagements qu'elle a contractés à Berlin.

L'insuffisance des réformes proposées est telle, en général, qu'il semble inutile de discuter les défauts du projet de la Porte. Les observations suivantes, toutefois, s'imposent en quelque sorte à l'esprit:

En déclarant, en premier lieu, que les Administrateurs des communes devront être des fonctionnaires du Gouvernement, choisis par le pouvoir central parmi les membres élus du Conseil Communal, au lieu d'être élus par le Conseil Communal lui-même, la Porte affirme le principe de la centralisation jusqu'au dernier degré de la hiérarchie administrative.

La Porte a d'ailleurs omis de dire, en ce qui concerne les Administrateurs et les membres des Conseils de Commune, s'ils seront nommés à titre viager ou seulement pour un temps. Elle ne dit pas davantage à qui appartiendra le droit de les révoquer de leurs fonctions en cas d'incapacité. Ce droit appartiendra-t-il au Conseil de Préfecture qui les nomme ou à une autre autorité?

La note Ottomane, d'autre part, n'établit de distinction entre la gendarmerie communale et la gendarmerie provinciale, ni quant au mode de recrutement ni à d'autres points de vue. La gendarmerie communale ne diffère de l'autre qu'en ce sens qu'elle est placée sous les ordres du Chef de la Commune. Elle ne se recrute pas dans la commune même, parmi les habitants appartenant au culte prépondérant, et rien ne garantit qu'elle soit spécialement ce qu'elle doit être, c'est-à-dire une force défensive locale.

L'organisation de la gendarmerie provinciale ne répond pas davantage aux besoins locaux des provinces spécialement désignées par l'Article LXI; la clause d'après laquelle elle doit se recruter, en officiers comme en soldats, "dans toutes les classes des sujets de l'Empire," est encore du caractère le plus vague. Il serait à désirer que les officiers et les soldats de la gendarmerie provinciale fussent recrutés dans la gendarmerie communale, c'est-à-dire parmi les gardes champêtres qui auront été choisis par les communes elles-mêmes. Ces gardes champêtres chargés de la défense des villages contre les incursions des Kurdes fourniraient à la gendarmerie provinciale un contingent proportionnel à la population de chaque commune. Substituée à l'arbitraire de l'administration provinciale, le principe de l'élection constituerait une garantie sérieuse pour la bonne organisation des forces destinées à assurer la sécurité publique.

La valeur des propositions relatives à la constitution d'une Cour d'Assises dépend avant tout des conditions dans lesquelles cette Cour sera constituée, et la note du 5 Juillet garde le silence à cet égard. Il paraît nécessaire de tenir compte de la

prédominance de l'élément Arménien dans certaines provinces et de faire à cet élément une part proportionnelle dans l'organisation de la justice.

Ici encore, d'ailleurs, se posent un certain nombre de questions dont la note Ottomane ne laisse pas entrevoir la solution. Les juges seront-ils inamovibles ou désignés pour un temps déterminé? D'après quelle loi jugeront-ils? Sera-ce d'après le Chéri? Sera-ce d'après un autre Code? Comment les Cours d'Assises feront elles respecter leurs arrêts par les tribus Kurdes semi-indépendantes et tout-à-fait sauvages? Cette dernière question prouve surabondamment combien il est nécessaire d'exclure les Kurdes de l'ensemble des réformes destinées aux populations de l'Arménie et de leur donner une administration séparée conforme à leurs mœurs guerrières et primitives. A l'occasion de cette même question des rapports des deux éléments sédentaires et nomades, les Soussignés expriment la conviction que toutes les servitudes ou corvées imposées par les Kurdes aux Arméniens, et qui dérivent, non pas d'un principe de droit, mais d'un abus invétéré, doivent être abolies.

Ils pensent également que le bénéfice de toutes les réformes stipulées au profit des Arméniens devrait équitablement être acquis aux nombreux Nestoriens qui peuplent le centre et le midi du Kurdistan (Caza de Djoûlamerk).

Il est regrettable que le paragraphe relatif au prélèvement d'une certaine somme destinée à subvenir à des besoins locaux tels que l'entretien des écoles, et l'exécution des travaux publics, ne soit pas rédigé en termes plus clairs. On peut admettre cependant qu'il renferme l'idée d'un principe financier d'une certaine valeur et ce principe, dans la pensée des Puissances, se poserait dans les termes suivants. Les taxes se diviseraient en deux catégories: la première, comprenant le produit des droits de douane et de l'impôt sur le sel, serait appliquée aux besoins de l'Empire. La seconde, provenant des revenus généraux du vilayet, serait affectée en premier lieu aux services administratifs de la province. Une partie du surplus serait réservée pour les besoins locaux, et le reste envoyé à Constantinople. Si cette interprétation est exacte la proposition de la note du 5 Juillet correspondrait plus ou moins à l'Article 19 du Projet de Réorganisation Administrative des provinces de la Turquie d'Europe présenté par la Sublime Porte à l'examen de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale. Elle constitue assurément une réforme sérieuse, en tant qu'elle consacre le principe qu'il doit être tout d'abord pourvu aux dépenses de la province au moyen d'un prélèvement opéré sur une partie du produit des impôts, mais il est essentiel que ce principe soit entouré de garanties identiques à celles adoptées par la Commission des Réformes Administratives.

Les Soussignés doivent faire observer, en outre, qu'on ne peut pas affecter à tel ou tel autre usage des revenus qui sont déjà hypothéqués.

Le principe de la décentralisation, si nécessaire dans des provinces habitées par une population professant un culte différent de celui de l'autorité centrale, est traité d'une manière peu satisfaisante dans la note de votre Excellence. Il est impossible de compter sur des réformes efficaces aussi longtemps que la position des Gouverneurs-Généraux ne sera pas complètement modifiée. La note laisse bien entrevoir que leurs pouvoirs seront étendus et leurs fonctions garanties, mais des assurances d'un caractère aussi général ne sont pas de nature à résoudre le problème. Tant que l'extension des pouvoirs d'un Gouverneur-Général, et de la responsabilité qui semble absolument nécessaire à l'accomplissement de ses devoirs, n'aura pas été nettement stipulée, tant que des garanties formelles n'ont pas été accordées à ce haut fonctionnaire quant à la durée de sa mission, il sera impossible de formuler une opinion sur l'efficacité des réformes proposées. Il est clair, en effet, que les Gouverneurs-Généraux doivent avoir certaines données sur la durée de leurs fonctions, et être affranchis de l'intervention constante qui se produit, sous le régime actuel, dans les moindres détails de leur gestion administrative, et a paralysé jusqu'à présent leur action. Il est inutile d'ajouter que si cette plus grande indépendance des Valis est partout désirable, elle est absolument nécessaire dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens. Les Puissances, en un mot, convaincues de l'insuffisance des propositions du Gouvernement Ottoman, pensent qu'il y a lieu de tenir un compte plus sérieux des besoins locaux constatés dans ces mêmes provinces, de donner une plus grande extension aux deux grands principes d'égalité et de décentralisation, de prendre des mesures plus efficaces pour l'organisation de la police, et la protection des populations molestées par les Circassiens et les Kurdes, de définir enfin la durée et l'étendue des pouvoirs des Gouverneurs-Généraux. A ce prix, mais à ce prix seulement, pleine satisfaction peut être donnée aux droits et aux espérances créés par l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin.

La Porte cherche, il est vrai, à diminuer la portée de cet Article, en s'appuyant

sur le chiffre de la population Arménienne, et en général de la population Chrétienne, comparé à celui de la population totale. La proportion indiquée par la note diffère tellement de celle que donnent d'autres renseignements que les Puissances ne sauraient l'accepter comme exacte.

Le Tableau ci-joint de la population Arménienne, dressé par les soins du Patriarchat, montre l'écart énorme qui existe entre ces différentes appréciations. La note du 5 Juillet n'indique d'ailleurs que la proportion des Musulmans aux Chrétiens. Les Puissances désireraient avoir communication des données sur lesquelles est basé ce calcul, et elles croient indispensable de faire prendre dans le plus bref délai par une Commission impartiale dont la formation sera ultérieurement déterminée, le chiffre approximatif des Musulmans et des Chrétiens habitant les provinces désignées par l'Article LXI.

Il faut qu'il soit bien entendu que la Porte acceptera les résultats de ce recensement opéré dans des conditions incontestables d'impartialité, et quelle en tiendra compte dans l'organisation des dites provinces.

Il est très-probable du reste qu'en procédant sur cette base, la nécessité de donner satisfaction à toutes les exigences locales entraînera le remaniement des limites géographiques actuelles des différents vilayets.

La Porte ne saurait d'ailleurs s'autoriser des délais qu'entraîneront les opérations du recensement projeté pour ajourner l'exécution des mesures présentant un caractère d'urgence.

Il est de toute nécessité de réaliser, sans perte de temps, les réformes destinées à garantir la vie et la propriété des Arméniens; de prendre immédiatement des mesures contre les incursions des Kurdes; d'appliquer sans délai la nouvelle combinaison financière, de mettre provisoirement la gendarmerie sur un pied plus satisfaisant; de donner surtout aux Gouverneurs-Généraux un pouvoir plus stable et une responsabilité plus étendue.

Les Soussignés, à titre de conclusion, appellent une fois de plus l'attention de la Porte sur ce fait essentiel, que les réformes à introduire dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens doivent, aux termes des engagements qu'elle a contractés par un Acte international, être conformes aux besoins locaux, et s'accomplir sous la surveillance des Puissances.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(Signé) HATZFELDT.
NOVIKOW.
GOSCHEN.
CORTI.
TISSOT.
CALICE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 113.

TABLEAU Comparatif de la Population Mixte dans les Six Vilayets.

	Erzeroum.	Van (Moudirie Bitlis.)	Sivas.	Kharpout.	Diarbékir.	Alep.	Total.	Total.	Total Général.
Arméniens—									
Arméniens	110,000	250,000	30,000	140,000	80,000	80,000	700,000		
Arméniens Catholiques	10,000	2,000	10,000	5,000	8,000	10,000	45,000		
,, Protestants	1,000	500	2,000	10,000	800	500	14,800		
,, Grecs	..	..	..	3,000	..	..	3,000		
,, Alévis Kizilbach ..	10,000	..	5,000	..	..	..	15,000		
,, Pachas	3,000	..	..	..	..	..	3,000		
	134,000	252,500	57,000	158,000	88,800	90,500	..	780,800	
Grecs—									
Grecs	5,000	..	5,000	2,000	5,000	..	17,000		
Grecs Catholiques	..	..	..	..	..	6,000	6,000		
	5,000	..	5,000	2,000	5,000	6,000	..	23,000	
Syriens—									
Syriens Nestoriens	..	85,000	..	5,000	40,000	10,000	170,000		
,, Catholiques	..	..	..	..	15,000	66,000	81,000		
	..	85,000	..	5,000	55,000	106,000	..	251,000	
Turcs—									1,054,800
Turcs	50,000	20,000	50,000	50,000	40,000	30,000	270,000		
Circassiens	10,000	..	15,000	20,000	15,000	..	50,000		
	60,000	20,000	65,000	70,000	55,000	30,000	..	320,000	
Mélanges—									
Yezidis	..	20,000	..	..	5,000	..	25,000		
Tehinganiens	10,000	..	..	5,000	..	5,000	20,000		
Kizilbach	..	..	..	15,000	15,000	..	30,000		
Juifs	..	1,500	..	..	..	..	1,500		
	10,000	21,500	..	20,000	20,000	5,000	..	76,500	
Nomades—									
Kurdes Zazas	60,000	70,000	15,000	30,000	..	15,000	190,000		
,, Alévis	..	..	..	10,000	10,000	..	50,000		
,, Arabes	..	..	..	..	30,000	40,000	70,000		
,, Afchars	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	10,000		
,, Bédouins Fahels	..	40,000	..	..	..	..	40,000		
Turcomans	..	..	..	..	..	20,000	20,000		
	60,000	110,000	15,000	40,000	40,000	85,000	..	380,000	
									776,500
									1,931,300

No. 114.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 357.) *Therapia, September 14, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two interesting despatches which I have received from Captain Clayton, giving an account of his journey in the Hakkiari, and of his interviews with Sheikh Obeyd Ullah and the Nestorians.

With reference to the idea of the formation of a Kurdish League which has been spoken of before, and in the first of Captain Clayton's inclosed despatches, I send your Lordship a translation of an article from the "Terdjoumani Hakikat," which is important and interesting.

As regards the second of these despatches, I wish to draw your Lordship's particular attention to the paragraph in which he speaks of the rumours afloat in Kurdistan of the encouragement that is likely to be given to the establishment of an independent Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 24. Political. Confidential.)

Kochhannes, August 2, 1880.

Sir,

IN continuation of the remarks respecting Sheikh Obeydullah contained in my despatch No. 23, Political, Confidential, of the 11th July, I have now the honour of reporting what further information I have received about the Sheikh and his proceedings in the course of my recent journeys.

I left Bashkala on the 12th July, to proceed to Diza, the principal place in the Kaimakamlik of Gevver, which I reached on the 13th. The night of the 12th I spent at a Nestorian village named Hoosi. The inhabitants were loud in praise of the Sheikh, saying he wishes to protect the Christians, and promises to get back what has been robbed from them.

On arriving at Diza I received a visit from Jehangir Agha, a Kurdish Chief on whose behalf I interested myself during the winter, as reported in my despatch No. 2, Political, of the 2nd February, 1880. I afterwards visited him at his village, about an hour from Diza. He then said that, having confidence in me after what I had done for him, he wished to ask my advice under present circumstances. He said that all the Kurdish Chiefs, except himself and Mehmed Agha, of Hurwata, Chief of the Pinyanish, had come to an understanding with the Sheikh; that Toussoun Pasha, the Mutessarif of Hakkiari, Hassan Pasha, the Vali of Van, and Souleh Pasha had all urged him not to go to the Sheikh, but his position was very isolated and awkward, and he should like my advice. At first, I said I could not take it upon myself to advise him to incur the bitter enmity of the Sheikh by refusing to go and see him, as I had no power to protect him, but that I thought he had better go if invited, and try in a friendly manner to persuade the Sheikh to remain quiet, as at present the European Powers were occupied with the Eastern question, and he would be able to see his way clearer when the result of their deliberations became known. But Jehangir Agha said he had already incurred the deep resentment of the Sheikh on account of the part he took against him last year, and he was apprehensive about going to him with such advice. I then asked if it was necessary for him to take a decided course at once, or whether he could wait a little. He said there was no immediate necessity for action, as he had as yet received no formal invitation from the Sheikh as the other Chiefs had. I therefore advised him to make no immediate decision, but to wait for the result of the deliberations of the Powers, when he would probably be better able to decide what to do. I asked him what he thought were the Sheikh's intentions. He said he had no doubt the Sheikh's idea was to establish an independent Kurdistan in case of the collapse of the Turkish Empire. He also said that Osman Effendi, the Kaimakam of Gevyer, was the tool of the Sheikh, persuading the Chiefs to come to an understanding with him, and concealing the real condition of things from the Government. Jehangir Agha also said that Osman Effendi had been trying to prejudice the Government against himself, and begged me if I could to refute the slanderous reports made against him. All the villagers in the neighbourhood speak very highly of Jehangir Agha, saying that during the war the Christians would have been destroyed if it had not been for his intervention, and from all I can see I think he is worthy of support and encouragement.

On my return to Diza I received a visit from the Custom-house officer, who said the country was suffering because there were two rival Governments, that of the Turkish Empire and that of the Sheikh. The adviser and prompter of the latter he said is Rashid Bey, the Kaimakam of Shuddakh. This man is of the family of Abbas of the old Dera Beys, and his parents and elder relatives were exiled at the time of the Tanzimat. He, like others, was afterwards given an office, in order to reconcile him to the new order of things, but he has never forgiven. After the events about Bayazid during the late war, the Porte requested that some of those connected with the then Kurdish army should be sent to Constantinople, to give information about what had occurred. Rashid Bey was one of those sent, and on his return he told the Sheikh that the Turkish Empire was in a dying state, and would be divided between the European Powers, especially England and Russia, and advised him to strike for independence.

A number of Nestorians, also from villages on the plain, came to me and said that they were plundered night and day by the Oramar and Doski Kurds. Government

does nothing to protect them, so they had gone to the Sheikh six weeks ago and asked for his protection, promising him so many loads of corn. He promised them protection, but as yet they have not found any advantage from it. These men were so much afraid either of the Kurds or the Sheikh, or both, that I could hardly induce them to speak, though they had come specially to make their condition known to me.

After staying at Diza two days, I started for Shemdina and Neri, the Sheikh's village. On passing Michieh, a village near the further end of the plain of Gevyer, about three hours from Diza, one of my escort said, "From this point on the Government has no authority, and collects no taxes; all is under the Sheikh." I stopped for the night at a Nestorian village named Deri Bani. The villagers complained that the Sheikh claims from them half the produce of their land. They said, however, that no one else oppressed them, and that they paid no taxes to Government.

The next day I reached Neri, and was received with distinction, the Sheikh having sent all the principal people out to meet me, and lodging me in his own house, a favour which I am told he did not accord to Bahri Bey when he was there recently as the bearer to the Sheikh of the decoration sent by the Sultan. In the afternoon the Sheikh paid me a visit, and expressed great pleasure at seeing a representative of England, and said it was his constant desire and effort to improve the condition of and give security to the people of all nationalities and creeds. On my returning his visit he expressed the greatest friendship for the English Government, and said he desired reform, and would be glad to do all in his power to carry it out. He was most anxious I should believe he cared for all nationalities and religions alike. He said that the blame for the present state of things lay at the door of the Government and of some of its officials and others who were interested in the maintenance of the present disorder. If he was permitted he would soon put an end to it. I said that the advice I gave to all was to wait quietly and see what would be the result of the present deliberations of the European Powers with regard to the affairs of Turkey. That when that became known, if any one disapproved of what was being done I was sure the Powers would receive any representations and consider them. When I took my leave the Sheikh requested me to see him privately before I left Neri.

During the day I received a visit from a certain Sheikh Hamid of Bashkala, who had come on a visit to Neri. He said that the people of the Bashkala district, despairing of getting protection from the Shikaks from any other quarter, had petitioned the Sheikh to punish the Shikaks and prevent them from carrying on their depredations. Sheikh Hamid, said the Sheikh, having the power was willing to do this if he was assured that it would not be taken amiss by the Turkish Government and European Powers. I replied that to give protection and punish robbery was the business of the Government. Sheikh Hamid said the Turkish Government was afraid to cross the frontier to punish the Shikaks, and the Persian Government was too weak to do anything, Ali Khan having lately plundered their territory up very nearly to Urumiah and Khoi, and therefore the people turned to the Sheikh. I again said that my advice was to wait patiently a little longer, and see if some improvement did not take place. Sheikh Hamid was evidently trying on the part of Sheikh Obeydullah to obtain some expression of opinion favourable to his taking independent action, which I was careful not to give. Sheikh Hamid bears a very bad character at Bashkala as an oppressor of the people.

I left Neri on the 19th July, but before leaving saw the Sheikh according to his request, no others being present except my dragoman and for part of the time the Sheikh's Khalifé, or confidential agent. The Sheikh said that to speak openly, though he was a Turkish subject, his sympathies were with England, because he was in communication with Sheikhs and other influential Mussulmans in India, and heard from them of the prosperity the Mussulmans enjoyed under English rule. He therefore would be glad to receive and carry out any orders that might be sent him by the English Government, and to do them very great service, so great service as no one would think of. And if he received encouragement from England he was not afraid either of Persia or Turkey, for he had sufficient power. I said I would inform Her Majesty's Government of his good-will and intentions, which I was sure they would be glad to hear of. At present I was not aware of the exact nature of the reforms which it was desired should be carried out in this country, and that, therefore, I could give him no information on the subject, much less instructions; but I thought it right to say that the Powers had no wish to overthrow or weaken the Turkish Government, but rather to strengthen and support it by bringing about such reforms as should give prosperity, security, and content to all nationalities. I said this especially

in hopes of counteracting the effect of what the Kaïmakam of Shaddakh is said to have told the Sheikh.

The Sheikh then asked if the Powers intended to establish an independent Armenia. I said I did not believe that would be the best solution of the problem, and that I did not think there was any such intention. The Sheikh then said that perhaps the Powers were afraid to form a Principality of Armenia because it would be surrounded by Kurds, but that they need not fear, for if he were permitted he would keep the Kurds entirely under control.

On my taking my leave the Sheikh hoped to have further communications with me.

From Neri I returned to Diza, and from thence proceeded to Kochhannes, to visit Mar Shimoun, the Nestorian Patriarch.

Mar Shimoun showed me a letter he had received the day before my arrival. It was unsigned and undated, but Mar Shimoun said he knew it was from the newly appointed Mudir of Oramar. Of this letter I inclose a translation. It must have been written before my visit to the Sheikh.

I left Kochhannes on the 26th July, but the next day I met Mr. Rassam, who said he had spent the previous night at the tents of Hajji Agha, the Chief of the Hartushi, a powerful tribe of nomad Kurds, who had expressed a great anxiety to be reconciled with the Tiyari Nestorians. Mr. Rassam having heard that I was at Kochhannes said that he was sure I would use my good offices to bring about a permanent friendship, and write to me and Mar Shimoun, and Melek Daniel, the principal man of the Tiyari, to propose a meeting. Believing it would be a very good thing to effect this reconciliation and conclude a peace, I resolved to turn back to Kochhannes, visiting Hajji Agha on the way. The result of this proceeding I report in another despatch.

During the time I was away from Kochhannes a man came to Mar Shimoun from Jelu, saying the Mudir of Oramar had come there to collect taxes. The people were willing to pay them, but the Sheikh sent to say he should be very much displeased if they paid anything to Government. The people therefore sent to ask Mar Shimoun what they should do. He replied that they should pay the taxes to Government, that they were not to mind the displeasure of the Sheikh, but to do nothing to make the Government angry.

From all I have seen and heard, I feel fully convinced that the Sheikh's mind is set upon establishing a practically independent Kurdistan. It does not do to trust to the information given by any single individual, but in this case the statements of different persons hang together, and are corroborated to a great extent by the Sheikh's own words to me. What he meant in his private interview with me when he spoke of the very great service he was ready to do England I imagine to be this. He, like so many other persons in this country, is, I fancy, imbued with the idea that England desires to obtain territory here, and, knowing her power, thinks it best to offer to throw in his lot with her, and by his hint meant that he was prepared to hand over Kurdistan to her, in the hope of being rewarded by being himself made a sort of Viceroy, or *quasi*-independent vassal, like some of the native Princes in India. He has evidently brought over to himself the greater part of the Kurdish Chiefs, and they are now on the *qui vive* awaiting his orders. I think my visit may possibly induce him to remain quiet for a time, but he will not, I am sure, be permanently content with his present position. It must be said that the part of the country where his authority prevails seems to be in better order than a great deal of the rest, he not allowing any one but himself to squeeze or oppress the people. Last year he attacked and severely punished the Herki Kurds, a nomad tribe that in their migrations have always done an immense deal of harm, because they would not acknowledge his authority. The result has been that this year they have not come to these parts, and the Sheikh has earned a great deal of gratitude. But he does not seem to prevent those Kurds who are under his influence from plundering other districts, as for instance the Oramar and Doski Ashirets, who plunder the Nestorians of the Geyver plain; and although the Christians have in many places implored his protection, yet as a rule they regard him with terror, not daring to speak of him but with bated breath. The Nestorians in the mountains fear he meditates a massacre like that of Beder Khan Bey, and are making preparations to defend themselves.

It will be seen that the Sheikh is a serious element in the problem presented by this country, but I am bound to say that both Jehangir Agha and the Custom-house officer at Diza made very light of his real power, saying that with two or three battalions and a couple of guns they would guarantee he could be kept in order, and

that it is only the weakness of the Government that has made him formidable. I am also inclined to believe that the Kurds would not stand against any effort made in earnest by a moderate number of regular troops, and that a coalition might be readily broken up by firmness, backed by a sufficient display of force.

At the present time the Government has practically no authority in Shendina, Jelu, Oramar (which last is between Jelu and Shendina), and further south for a space unknown to me. These districts pay no taxes to Government, and although there is a Mudir at Neri, yet his post is a sinecure, as the Sheikh's authority is the only one recognized.

I venture once more to urge that the question of the Sheikh requires prompt attention. After my visit he may keep quiet for a short time, so as not to prejudice himself in the sight of England and Europe till he sees what he is likely to obtain from them in the way of gratifying his ambition; but if events do not seem likely to turn out to his advantage, my opinion is that he will try and strike a blow for himself. If a strong Administration were to exhibit towards him a judicious mixture of firmness and conciliation, allowing the presence of and the will to use a sufficient force, if necessary, to be perceived, but keeping it as yet in the background, it is possible he might be made a useful agent; but if he did not cordially and unreservedly accept such conditions and position as might be offered him, he would have to be removed at any cost if the country is to be permanently quieted. The plan of weakly trying to purchase tranquillity by bribes, decorations, and flattery, which is apparently adopted at present by the Turkish Government, will never succeed.

I propose, on my return to Van, to communicate to the Turkish authorities there the general conclusions I have arrived at with regard to the Sheikh's intentions and actions, as they are much deceived by their agents. But I shall not make known what the Sheikh said to me in the private interview, considering that to be a confidential communication to Her Majesty's Government, nor shall I divulge the names of those from whom I have obtained information. I most earnestly beg that whatever use may be made of the information contained in this despatch, those names may not be published or communicated to any Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Letter received by Mar Shimoun July 24, 1880.

(Translation.)

TO-DAY the Aghas of the Oramar Ashiret and the Chiefs have arrived from Neri. Bazid Agha, Tchelebi Oghlou of Doskan, and all the Doskan Chiefs, have gone to their villages.

Yesterday I sent Arab Rahau, our zaptieh, to Tahir Agha, of Oramar, to ask him whether he would come to Tshtazin or whether I should go there in order to receive the taxes of Oramar. But he told the zaptieh that the Sheikh was very angry with the Oramar Ashiret, because they had asked the Government for a Mudir, and had received presents from him, and had said to them, "Go and give the presents back to the Mudir, take also the money from him which you have paid as taxes to the Government, and return it again to the Christians from whom you have collected it." The Sheikh has also forbidden them to pay taxes in the future to Government, and Tahir Agha told the zaptieh that the Mudir must not come to them, as they are afraid of being punished by the Sheikh.

I immediately informed Osman Bey, the Kaïmakam of Geyver, and Mehmed Bey, the Commandant of the Imperial troops stationed at Geyver, of what had occurred; but they did not believe me, and reproached me, saying I told lies, and that the Sheikh has not said any such things.

The Sheikh has also given orders to all the Aghas of the Ashirets residing here to move their families to the Samaklar pasturages, on a mountain near Zivé Karié, in Shendina. He also told them to call their men together, and keep them ready waiting his further orders. And the Ashirets of Oramar and Doski had to-day a meeting at the Mergezer Yilaks, when they resolved to move their families to the Samaklar Yilaks.

Sheikh Obeydullah has demanded 400 men from the Oramar Ashiret, and has also asked the Ashirets of Doskan, Doski, and Pinyanish, and also Osman Agha, of

Khovatali, for men; and all these Ashirets promised him their assistance, and are now making preparations to carry out the wishes of the Sheikh.

About six days ago the Aghas of all the Ashirets residing in the Sandjak of Mosul, Bikan, Rewandiz, Gevver, Oramar, and the Chiefs of the Doskan and all other Ashirets, were called together to a meeting with the Sheikh. They appeared with their Kiayahs, Mukhtars, and the chief people in Neri, and I have been informed that in this meeting it was decided to send troops in some direction, but in what direction I do not know. The Sheikh is preparing for an attack. His intentions are very bad indeed. If matters are to continue thus, the Government and the inhabitants of this country will be no doubt totally ruined. Unless some troops are immediately sent to this part of the country, the poor inhabitants, with their lives and property, will fall into the hands of these insurgents.

Inclosure 3 in No. 114.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 25. Political.)

Van, August 10, 1880.

Sir,

AS you are aware, I have been lately travelling in Hakkiari for the purpose of distributing famine relief, and examining into the general condition of the country. I shall report my proceedings with respect to relief in a future despatch, and I now report what I have learned regarding the Nestorians.

Statistical information is very difficult to gain, but I have obtained the following figures, which, as far as they go, will I think give a fair approximate idea of the numbers of the Nestorians:—

Ashiret Nestorians.

	Families.	Souls.	Meleks.
Tiyari	2,000	16,000	2
Tehoma	800	6,400	1
Ilaz	500	4,000	1
Diz	150	1,200	1
Jelu	1,000	8,000	2
Thal, Walto	360	2,500	Under other Ashirets
Total Ashirets	4,750	38,000	7

Raya Nestorians.

	Villages.	Houses.	Souls.
Berwari	18	400	3,200
Khamnis (Julamerik)	3	150	1,200
Lewin	9	200	1,600
Nurdus	6	150	1,200
Gevver	28	600	4,800
Altag (Bashkala)	11	300	2,400
Hafil, Kelé	2	50	400
Chal (scattered houses)	..	30	240
Van	7	..	900
Total Rayas	84	1,880	15,940

Total Ashirets and Rayas together, 53,940.

In addition, there are a considerable number of Nestorians in Shemdina, in the Vilayet of Mosul, and in Persia, towards Urumiah and Salmas.

It is quite evident from these figures that I very greatly over-estimated the numbers of the Nestorians in the paper inclosed in my despatch No. 26, Political, of the 29th November, 1879.

As regards the general condition of the Nestorians, it is first to be observed that there is a sharp split between the Ashirets of Tiyari and Tehoma and the rest of the Nestorians. The Tiyari and Tehoma live in mountain valleys which are extremely difficult of access, and are practically independent. Government officials, troops, or zaptiehs never penetrate into their country; they pay no taxes, and have no dealings

whatever with the Turkish Government. Moreover, for the last three years they have cast off all adherence to Mar Shimoun. This is, to a great extent, the fault of Mar Shimoun himself. He is indolent and apathetic, and has neglected the affairs of the Nestorians, spiritual as well as temporal, and has not travelled about his country to make the people acquainted with him, and to look after their affairs. The consequence is, that his influence has declined everywhere, and the Tiyari and Tehoma have said:—"We see that you have done nothing for our brethren who are round you and under the Turkish authority; we are free and prosperous, so we will have nothing to do with either you or the Turkish Government."

The Tiyari have been for some time at feud with the Hartushi, a powerful tribe of nomad Kurds, who in winter reside near Mosul, and in summer come to the pasturages in the neighbourhood of Julamerik. The result is, that the Hartushi are unable to come the direct road through Tiyari to their summer resorts, but are obliged to take a circuitous route through Bohtan. This is injurious to them on more than one account. Besides the greater length of route they have to make, they have to pass several Bohtan tribes, and make them large presents in return for permission to pass. This spring, moreover, they came into collision with some of these tribes, and lives were lost on both sides, so that now even the Bohtan route is almost closed to them. On the other hand, the Hartushi cut the Tiyari off from all communication with Mosul and the south.

On the 27th July, the day after I left Kochhannes, intending to return to Van, I met Mr. Rassam on the road, who informed me that he had spent the previous night at the tents of Hajji Agha, the chief of these nomad Hartushis, who had expressed to him a great desire to be reconciled with the Tiyari. Mr. Rassam, having heard I was at Kochhannes, said to Hajji Agha that he was sure I should be glad to use my good offices to bring about such a reconciliation, and sent a letter to me to Kochhannes, and also one to Mar Shimoun, inclosing a note to Melek Daniel, the principal man of the Tujari, proposing a meeting to try and arrange a permanent peace. This letter, however, did not reach Kochhannes until after I had left. Thinking it would be a very good thing to effect this reconciliation, I resolved to turn back. That night I spent at Hajji Agha's camp, sending a messenger over with a note to Mar Shimoun to say I was returning, and asking him to send at once and invite the Tiyari Meleks to a meeting, sending, at the same time, Mr. Rassam's note to Melek Daniel. I returned to Kochhannes on the 29th July, and on the 30th Toussoun Pasha, the Mutessarif of Hakkiari, arrived from Bashkala to investigate various matters, and encamped about an hour from Kochhannes. He said he should be very pleased if this reconciliation could be effected. Other Chiefs of local Kurds, who came to visit the Pasha, also expressed a wish to make friends with the Nestorians. But I regret to say that, on the 3rd August the messenger sent to the Tiyari returned, saying that the Meleks declined to come. He said that at first they agreed to come, but that a letter arrived, written by the Nestorian Metropolitan of Shemdina, in the name of Sheikh Obeydullah, to invite them to a meeting in Jelu, and that then the Meleks said: "We have not been to Mar Shimoun for three years; why should we go there? we must go to the Sheikh's meeting."

I was extremely disappointed at this, but I could not do anything further then, as, even if I had sent another messenger, I did not know where the Meleks might be, so I started for Van the next day, having previously seen Hajji Agha, and told him that, when I returned to Van, I would talk to Mr. Rassam, who is acquainted with the Tiyari Meleks, and try to see if any further measures could be taken for the object desired.

The conduct of the Meleks, I think, was most injudicious; but it may, I think, have been caused by these reasons:—Firstly, their having repudiated the authority of Mar Shimoun rendered them averse to having any dealings with him; secondly, they are apprehensive of the intentions of the Sheikh, and are also on bad terms with the Turkish Government, so they may think it desirable to be friends with the Sheikh; and, lastly, I understand they are vexed with England. They have expected much from her, and as yet have got little. When Mr. Cutts was here three years ago, he promised that clergymen and teachers should be sent to them from England; but three years have elapsed, and nothing has been seen of them. Confounding the English Church with the English Government, they impute the blame to the latter, and consider that it has broken faith with them, and are, therefore, not very eager or enthusiastic about the English any longer. Last year the Tiyari desired to send a priest with letters to the Russian Government of the Caucasus, and he came to Mar Shimoun asking for his sanction, and a letter from him also. This, Mar Shimoun says,

he refused, telling them that he had put his trust in England, and would not countenance appeals to other nations. The priest then returned to Tiyari, but afterwards went direct thence to Tiflis. Therefore, I think it very likely that the Tiyari have now so little inclination towards England, that the fact that it was an English official who proposed to try and bring about an arrangement of their affairs would be no great inducement to them, but that a very little would be sufficient to decide them against accepting his invitation.

Since my return to Van I have talked to Mr. Rassam on the subject, and arranged to send a messenger to Melek Daniel with a note from Mr. Rassam, asking him what the real reasons were that he did not accept my invitation, and then, perhaps, it may be possible to make some arrangement.

As regards the other Nestorians, the Rayas suffer in common with others from plundering by various tribes of Kurds, and those under the Julamerik Government have especially suffered through the malpractices of Hassan Bey, the Kaimakam, and his associates.

Hassan Bey, during his tenure of office, about eighteen months, has not only oppressed the people, but also systematically robbed the Government. A Commission has been sent by Toussoun Pasha to investigate his conduct, he meanwhile having been suspended and summoned to Bashkala. The members of this Commission told me their task had been a difficult one, as Hassan Bey's robberies and iniquities had been so many, while the people from fear were very unwilling to give evidence. However, other officials at Julamerik had confessed to having received shares of Hassan Bey's plunder, and had given much information. He had embezzled 32,000 piastres out of the bread alone supplied for the use of the troops; and Toussoun Pasha told me that altogether there is a deficit of 1,200,000 piastres, the commencement of which, however, dates from before Hassan Bey's time. Then Hassan Bey had seized all sorts of stores from the people for the use of the troops. Many persons are said to have died of starvation because the scanty store they had provided for the winter had been seized by Government. Continual exactions are still carried on. Butter which now fetches 50 piastres the oke in the market is taken for 5 piastres the oke, &c. This year at Easter ten to twenty soldiers or zaptiehs were sent to each village in the Nestorian district of Berwari to take corn, goods, money, &c., from the inhabitants, and they also much maltreated the people, beating the men and violating the women.

However, Hassan Bey belongs to the family of the Temur Oglou, and is a brother of Ghalib Pasha of Van; so the most strenuous efforts will be made to conceal his misconduct, and the people are so afraid that he will come back and wreak his vengeance on those who have complained of him, or if he does not return, that his family will find some means to take revenge; that, in order to curry favour with him, two petitions have actually been sent in, one signed by Moslems and the other by Christians, saying they were very well satisfied with him, and praying for his return! At the same time, Turks, Kurds, and Christians all came to me inveighing against his crimes, and expressing the fervent hope he would not be sent back.

As regards the Nestorians of Shemdina, including the Metropolitan, they are practically mere vassals of Sheikh Obeydullah, and can do only what he orders. He is trying also to extend his influence over the Ashirets of Baz and Jelu, as reported in my despatch No. 24, Political, Confidential.

I may mention that everywhere I went I found a very strong feeling among the Moslems with respect to the rumours flying about, that Europe intends to establish an independent Armenia. I was continually asked whether the report was true, and the argument was more than once used to me, that it would be very much against English interests that such a State should be formed, as it would be entirely under the control of Russia.

Altogether, the country is in an excited state: the Armenians and Nestorians talk about independence, and the Moslems are irritated against the Christians. I have heard, but cannot vouch for the truth of the report, that the Mussulmans of Van have sent to Sheikh Obeydullah to ask what they should do, in view of the pretensions of the Armenians, promising to obey any orders that he might give. Altogether, for the tranquillity of the country, it is most desirable that the basis of a settlement of the Reform question should be laid down as soon as possible and made known, so as to quiet the excitement caused by uncertainty, and prevent dangerous misunderstandings.

Many rumours have been flying about lately of Russian agents having been very busy among the Armenians, going so far in one instance as to say that the

agents told the people that a Russian army was coming, and instructed them what to do in this event. I put very little faith in these wild rumours, but no doubt the Russian Government is kept well informed of the state of the country. Two Russian Armenians came here last autumn from Tiflis, and travelled about a good deal, ostensibly with the purpose of choosing sites for schools, which were to be established by the munificence of certain persons in Tiflis. But nothing further has been heard of these schools, and one of these persons has lately returned here, and has now gone to Diarbekir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 114.

Extract from the "Terdjoumani Hakikat" of September 9, 1880.

(Translation.)

THE KURDISH LEAGUE.—The "Terdjoumani Hakikat," speaking of the Kurdish League and its supposed aims, says:—

"A long time ago we gave our opinion on this tendency in Kurdistan.

"We saw that the slanderous publications of the Armenians against the Kurds touched them to the quick, and that, when they were obliged to answer these through the medium of the Turkish press, there was a tendency to take steps of this sort.

"As our knowledge of the internal condition of Kurdistan is really nothing more or less than perfect, it is easy for us to receive correct information about those regions at every time. Consequently, from the news that we receive, we can give some information which we are justified in believing not less exact than that to be received by Mr. Goschen from the English Ministry in the inquiries they make of him.

"We have not been informed of the existence in Kurdistan, at the present day, of a League like the Albanian. We are decidedly of opinion that such a League does not exist.

"But the non-existence of the League is only limited to the present time. The result of our being unable to hold this opinion as regards the future, if in Kurdistan, like the Albanian League—— No! no! there is not the slightest doubt that, should a still more powerful one than this ever come into existence, it will simply be brought about by European diplomatic action.

"If it be asked what is the state of Kurdistan at the present day, we have it on the most reliable information that the Chiefs of Kurdistan are extraordinarily excited by the question of reforms, called by Europe 'the Armenian question.' It is certain that they will form their League the very moment they see they will be made to be like the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia.

"We should not be far wrong were we to say, in the words of a sentence which is proverbial in European languages, 'All Kurdistan moves like one man.' For a portion of the Kurds are essentially nomads, and their houses and homes—that is to say, their tents—are like those for cattle; and to set these people in motion the order, 'To horse,' is sufficient.

"This, too, we are certain of: that should a League ever arise in Kurdistan, it will not act against the Christians. How is it that the League in Albania has not shown any marks of hostility towards the Christians?

"As a matter of fact, no Mussulman has any hostility to Christians in our country. As up to the present time no advice in this direction has been given to any class of Mussulmans, without exception of nationality; even our last misfortunes have not awakened such a feeling among them. It is for this reason that, if we were to see the least feeling of hostility to us on the part of our Christian fellow-countrymen, it would have a very bad effect on us. We regret, however, to see a good deal of hostile feeling of this sort.

"This is the most exact intelligence we have at present on the subject of the Kurdish League. We hope that Mr. Goschen will not give any more information than this."

No. 115.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 679.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 21, 1880, 3·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 171, express to Baron Jomini satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at instructions sent to Batoum respecting Abkhasian refugees.

No. 116.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 558.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 21, 1880, 3·55 P.M.*

VICE-CONSUL at Poti lately reported arrival of a Greek ship at Batoum under English flag, with Abkhasian refugees from Bartan. Authorities objected to their remaining, and they were stated to be in great want. Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh was instructed to call attention of Russian Government. They object to receive back Russian subjects who left during the war, unless they have obtained leave through a Russian Consul to avail themselves of amnesty. Matter has been referred to Governor-General of Caucasus, and meanwhile local authorities have been instructed to feed the refugees. Russian Ambassador is to call attention of Porte to necessity of putting an end to this state of things.

No. 117.

Earl Granville to Consul Lyall.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 21, 1880, 7·30 P.M.*

MY telegram of 18th instant.

Russian Government state that question of destitute Abkhasians has been referred to Governor-General of Caucasus, and that in the meantime local authorities have instructions to feed them during their stay at Batoum.

No. 118.

Consul Billiotti to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 30. Political.)
Trebizond, September 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that exceptional bad weather having prevented the French steamer in which I embarked at Samsoon to touch at Kerassond, I unexpectedly came to Trebizond.

On my arrival here I learnt that on the 22nd of Ramazan (28th ultimo), an incident occurred which threatened for a moment to seriously endanger the public peace.

According to the current version, the motives and details of the incident are as follows:—

Some time since, orders were sent by the Porte to engage a French teacher for the Rushdié school, and to pay him 5*l.* a-month. This innovation, which was received with little favour by the hodjas of the Rushdié, especially excited the ire of the second hodja of the school, who, after having been teaching in it for the last twenty years with a salary of 400 piastres a-month, had lately seen it reduced to 270 piastres, while 5 liras were paid to a Christian for teaching a foreign language.

Moved by these motives, and by fanaticism, he availed himself of the Ramazan to give in the principal mosque in the Bazar a series of lectures, in which he denounced in strong terms Mussulmans who were only so outwardly, but who, in fact, were Farmasons (synonymous to Atheists), and called God's curses on them, owing to their injustices having brought about the present past-hope condition of the Empire, and to their conduct causing the extinction of the Moslem religion.

The proceedings of the hodja were brought to the notice of the Governor-General,

with the addition that he comprised in his curses the Sultan, under whose reign the Moslem religion was being annihilated, and that under the circumstances it little mattered whether the country passed under Russian rule.

Sirri Pasha having called him in his presence, detained him a few hours to find out the truth, for which purpose he proceeded himself to the Bazar.

The Greek Archbishop related to me that being unaware of what was taking place, and having pressing business to transact with the Vali, he went to meet him in the Bazar. On his nearing the principal mosque he conceived great apprehension on his being surrounded by a great crowd, who, however, merely begged him to interfere with the Pasha in order to obtain the release of the hodja, who, they maintained, had not uttered a single word against the Sultan, but who had been calumniated by a certain Arnaoudoglou Ahmed Effendi. Gradually, as the crowd increased, though always very respectful towards the Archbishop, they became more violent in their language towards the authorities; one amongst the assistants even threatened that they would rescue the hodja if the Pasha did not comply with their request.

Apprehending an outbreak in consequence of the determined attitude of the crowd, the Archbishop urged on Sirri Pasha the advisability to release the hodja, a decision to which the latter had already come by himself; and on the appearance of the hodja the crowd quietly dispersed.

It is persistently rumoured, however, that the Pasha kissed the hodja's hand, begging him pardon at the same time for having detained him under a false accusation.

The party adverse to the Pasha availed themselves of the circumstance to post up on the day of the Bayram placards reproaching him with his bad administration, and with conferring decorations on persons (Arnaoudoglou) who were unworthy of the distinction, and advising him to send in his resignation.

However, little attention should be paid to the latter manifestation, placards being of common occurrence at Trebizond. Most of the Valis that I have known here, if not all of them, have passed through that ordeal. But I have reason to believe that the incident of the hodja is of a more serious character than it may appear to possess at first.

One of the Government functionnaries confessed to me that having assiduously followed the religious practices of the Ramazan, he had been struck by an undisguised spirit of animosity which prevailed in the lectures delivered by all the Mollahs in the different mosques against all persons connected with the Government, the Sultan himself included. My informant said that the attacks were not so open as they had been reported to the Vali, but they were sufficiently transparent to leave no doubt in any person's mind. This statement was confirmed to me by other Mussulmans.

I beg to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that the state of general feeling prevailing amongst the population in this quarter, as described by me in the latter part of my despatch No. 18 of the 9th July last, is fully confirmed by the occurrences which I report in this despatch.

Sirri Pasha left this morning for Rizeh, the inhabitants of which district are also clamouring against acts of oppression and vexation, but who, being almost exclusively Mussulmans, had hitherto not been so loud in their complaints as the Christians in the western districts.

I have communicated to the Vali the main facts that came to my knowledge during my journey westward, and he seems disposed to proceed in person in that quarter after his return from Rizeh, in order to ascertain by himself the real state of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILLIOTTI.

No. 119.

Consul Billiotti to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 31. Political.)
Trebizond, September 8, 1880.

My Lord,

IT is reported to me by an Armenian just arrived from Batoum, and who is so placed as to be well informed, that about 250 Armenian families from Artwin have made up their mind to emigrate to Turkey.

It is even said that they have already obtained from the Porte lands at the Sweet-

Waters in Constantinople in exchange for their property at Artwin, which the Turkish Government will hand to Russia on account of the war indemnity.

The general motive adduced for emigrating are the imposition of heavy dues by Russia on small industries such as soap, linen stuff, and spirit manufactures, to which most of the inhabitants of Artwin addicted themselves. But it would seem that there are also motives of a private character. There are two Armenian parties at Artwin, each headed by an influential family, Piloyan and Poutchinian.

The would-be emigrants seem to consist mostly, if not exclusively, of the party of Piloyan, who consider that they have been wronged by the Russian Government in a somewhat trifling contestation which they had with their opponents on the subject of a house.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 120.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 32. Political.) *Trebizond, September 11, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE just transmitted to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram:—

"At Gumurshané, on the third day of Bairam, seven officers of Redifs, who had uselessly applied for their salaries, broke into the house where the Mal-Mudir and two members of the Administrative Council were sitting, and severely wounded them with their swords."

The foregoing information was confidentially communicated to me without further details, but there is no doubt as to the fact itself, my informant having seen the official telegram from Gumurshané conveying the news to the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 121.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 509.) *Foreign Office, September 24, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 342 of the 8th instant, and I approve your having sent Her Majesty's ship "Torch" to Ismid and Gyumleh, and directed Captain Selby and Mr. F. St. John, who is proceeding on a cruize with that officer, to collect as much further information as they are able with regard to the condition of the refugees landed at those ports, in order that you may obtain additional facts whereon to make further representations to the Porte respecting the refugees.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 122.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 512.) *Foreign Office, September 24, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 333 of the 7th instant, inclosing a copy of one from Lieutenant Chermside, and, under the circumstances set forth in that officer's despatch, I approve your intention to remonstrate against the suspension of the Accountant-General of Amasia if, on inquiry at the Porte, it should prove to be illegal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 123.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 363.) *Therapia, September 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a communication which I have received from the Armenian Patriarch on the subject of the complaints made by the leading Armenians of certain villages near Diarbekir of their ill-treatment by the Kurdish Beys.

In acknowledging the receipt of this document, I have requested his Beatitude to telegraph to the complainants to communicate with the Acting Vice-Consul at Siwas, whom I have instructed to report on the matter.

I have entertained some doubts how I ought to deal with the vast number of communications of a similar kind sent to me by the Armenian Patriarch; I doubt whether it would be right to publish all of them in Blue Books till they are sifted. I believe that while there is often great ground for complaint, no particular care is taken with respect to accuracy of statement, and I am disposed in future to refer them all to our Consular Agents before taking any action on them.

All our Consuls and Vice-Consuls display great activity, and most of the events which are telegraphed to the Armenian Patriarch from Van would reach the ears of Captain Clayton, unless he happened to be absent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Complaints from Armenia.

UN mahzer daté du 30 Juin, et signé par les prêtres et les Notables Arméniens du village des districts de Coulp et Hamédani, relevant du Vilayet de Diarbékir, après avoir peint la triste situation de la population Arménienne de ces contrées résultant de la famine actuelle, et de la déprédation continuelle des hordes sauvages, se plaint amèrement contre les Beys Kurdes, et notamment contre les acolytes des célèbres brigands, les nommés Tello et Mirza, exilés par Abédine Pacha, qui, pour se venger de la population, exercent cruellement des tyrannies et des avanies avec une nouvelle rigueur sous les yeux des autorités locales, qui semblent rester comme des statuts en face de tous ces maux.

Ces tyrans sont dans le village de Nirtschig, du district de Coulp, les nommés Hussein et Sulémian, fils de l'exilé Tello Aga, et leurs neveux, Sussé et Mohamed, avec tous leurs compagnons.

Dans le village de Délit les deux frères Sefer et Shamdine, avec tous leurs compagnons.

Dans le village de Sinars, le nommé Tensaur Bey avec ses fils.

Dans le village de Khéroudji, le nommé Hadji Youssouf, avec ses fils, Osman Hussein et Ali; son frère, le nommé Khalet, avec ses fils, Ahmed, Saleh, et Amé.

Dans le village de Hadjamig, du district de Havédan, le nommé Devrish, avec ses fils, et son frère, Hassan.

Dans le village de Cameean, le nommé Cassam, avec ses onze fils.

Dans le village de Harta, du district de Ledjéan, les nommés Cheyk Ahmed et Sheyk Chahabadine, avec tous leurs fils et tous les villageois.

Le mahzer tout en exposant l'état déplorable et le comble du désespoir de la population locale résultant de la famine et des avanies commises par les tyrans susmentionnés, implore l'assistance de notre Patriarcat pour l'exemption des impôts et des dîmes de quelques années, et pour l'éloignement immédiat des dits misérables de ces contrées.

No. 124.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received September 28.*)

(No. 369.) *Therapia, September 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Report from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Konia on the subject of emigration in that vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Vice-Consul Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 21. Political.) *Konia, September 3, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the following Report on the emigration question in this vilayet:—

1. Number of emigrants, families, nationalities, houses built:—

Localities.	Number of Families.	Number of Souls.	Nationalities.	Houses Built.
Konia Sandjak	1,123	4,413	1,048 Tartars 786 Roumelian Turks 2,097 Teherkess 482 Nogai Tartars	..
Nigdeh Sandjak	609	2,292	Teherkess	304
Burdur Sandjak	124	445	127 Tartars 51 Roumelian Turks 267 Teherkess	40
Sparta Sandjak	167	741	Teherkess	..
Tekké Sandjak	160	767	450 Tartars 287 Albanians 214 Tartars	..
Town of Konia	241	781	60 Lovchali Turks 156 Teherkess 351 Nogai Tartars	Building.
Town of Akschehr	58	201	Teherkess	68
Town of Ilgun	168	650	Teherkess	84
Town of Karabounar	17	59	Tartars	..
Town of Eregli	95	386	195 Turks 193 Teherkess 225 Tartars	..
Town of Beyschehr	109	414	58 Teherkess 131 Nogai Tartars	..
Town of Seidischehr	12	49	Turks	..
Town of Espikeshan	93	430	Tartars	..
Town of Karaman	137	530	46 Tartars .. 484 Turks ..	..
Teherkess village in the vicinity of the town	..	513	513 Teherkess	..
Seidilli Nahié (Ilgun)	115	490	Teherkess	..
Seidirhemi (Zille)	52	113	Teherkess	..
Khatun Serai	57	241	Tartars	..
Sahre Nahiyesi	16	74		980
Total	3,356	13,554		

Different nationalities: numbers—Tartars, 2,673; Nogai, 664; Teherkess, 8,007; Roumelian Turks, 1,623; Albanians, 287.

These numbers are approximative. There are constant changes occurring, emigrants coming and going, deaths, &c.

2. The Government allowance to each woman, sick, maimed, and old men, is half an oke of bread a-day, or a little less than 1½ lbs.

To children under 10 years 100 drams, or ¾ lb., of bread.

As the Government does not sanction a ration being given to able-bodied men, and as it is impossible to expect emigrants on arrival to immediately find employment, the following steps were taken to meet the case. Of the subscription the inhabitants had promised and partly paid during the late war for supplying provisions, boots, blankets, &c.,

to the soldiers, an uncollected balance remained due of about 1,000,000 piastres. The inhabitants, after some trouble, were induced to pay up this sum, and allow the money to be employed for the emigrants. Of this sum some 500,000 piastres have been already spent in supplying rations, clothing, fuel, transport, &c. The balance, 500,000 piastres, was temporarily lent to Government, to meet pressing calls such as salaries, &c. Considerable difficulty has been found in getting this sum back, and a large amount is still due.

As for the building of houses, the average cost of a house is 2,000 piastres.

The houses are built by order of the Idaré Medjliss, and at the cost of the inhabitants. As the latter have not yet been called upon to pay, Government has sanctioned money being advanced by the local treasuries. With the present great pressure for money, and the constant appeals and orders for it that come from Stamboul, it is evident that but little help can be expected from this source.

The inhabitants decline any longer to supply the emigrants, saying they have done quite enough, and that it is a case of either their starving or the emigrants. They point out also the great losses they have suffered during the late war, the endless calls that are being made upon them, and the losses they will now incur from locusts.

If the Government is determined upon flooding this country with penniless emigrants, their proper course should be to send notice to the authorities (local) some two months beforehand, stating the number of emigrants they were going to send, and the date about which they would arrive. Sanction should also be given to spend some of the public funds for the building of houses, finding farming implements, seed, &c.

The present system, or rather absence of system, is most unfair on all parties. The emigrants, after a long journey and many hardships, arrive to find no one expects them, and that no preparations have been made for them. The inhabitants, on the other hand, are called upon to feed, clothe, and build houses for emigrants under the penalty of otherwise seeing them die of starvation.

In capacity for labour and general usefulness, the Tartars are the best and the Teherkess the worst. The latter are very unwilling to work, and will live on the people and Government as long as they possibly can. As they are broken up into clans, each under its own leader, it is more difficult to deal with them. Serfdom or slavery is one of their institutions. Many of them make a fair livelihood out of robbery, levying blackmail, and selling their female children to wealthy Turks. Notwithstanding that they have influential protectors in the harems of Stamboul, they are very dissatisfied, and express great contempt for the Government. As might be expected, they are looked upon with great dislike and fear by the rest of the population. That their misbehaviour is exaggerated is probable. I have already reported to your Excellency the riots that occurred lately between them and the inhabitants of Ak-Serai and Eregli. So far as I can judge, there is nothing to prevent similar riots again occurring. As the Teherkess are neither wanting in capacity or energy, it is probable that under a strong and able Government a good deal might be made out of them.

With the exception of the Tartars, who do some carpentering and build arabas, I have heard of no emigrants who are handicraftsmen, or who have taken to trade. Many of them come here under the impression that they will be well-treated and cared for; but when they see the country, and make practical acquaintance with the hardships an emigrant has to undergo, they clamour to be allowed to return. Fanaticism, probably encouraged by the Government, is doubtless the mainspring of most of this movement.

As for the Albanians, about whom I have already written, they are gradually being sent back to Smyrna. On arrival here they had about seventy sick, of whom four have died. Efforts were made to induce them to remain, but they would not hear of it, saying "If an oke of sugar were given us a-day we would not stop," and that such a treeless and waterless country was not fit to live in. On leaving, they had twelve sick who refused to stop till they were well.

As far as I can judge this emigration question, it appears to me that the Government has two courses open to it—either to discourage the movement by every means in its power, or else to provide money from the public funds for fitting out the people.

I hear another Pasha is coming to examine into the emigration question—a useless expense.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 125.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 373.)
Therapia, September 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, a copy of a strongly-worded note which I have addressed to the Sublime Porte respecting the state of affairs in the Hakkiari district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Embassy has on previous occasions had the honour to draw the attention of the Sublime Porte to the deplorable state of affairs which prevails in the district of Hakkiari, and especially to the persecution which the Christian inhabitants there suffer at the hands of their Kurdish neighbours. Her Majesty's Embassy regrets to state that it has received a telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, dated the 9th instant, from which it appears that within the last few days thirteen Christian villages in Hakkiari have been entirely stripped by the Kurds, and their inhabitants reduced to a state of utter destitution.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Sublime Porte will at last take the necessary steps for the preservation of order in the district of Hakkiari, and for the protection of the Sultan's Christian and other subjects in those parts of Kurdistan against the depredations of the Kurds.

Her Majesty's Embassy deeply deplores the apparent absence of power or determination on the part of the Ottoman authorities in these districts to put an end to the present state of affairs. Her Majesty's Embassy sees grave dangers in the continuance of a situation which seems of a character threatening alike to the security of the subjects of the Sultan and to the existence of regular government in those regions. The responsibility of the consequences will rest on the Ottoman Government.

Therapia, September 18, 1880.

No. 126.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received September 29, 5 P.M.)

(No. 268.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, September 29, 1880, 1 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 590.

I am not certain whether desolate coast where emigrants have been landed is in Turkish or Russian territory.

Am I to communicate substance of that telegram to the Porte?

Are there any further steps which your Lordship thinks I could usefully take?

No. 127.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 613.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, September 30, 1880, 8·50 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 268 of the 29th.

You may communicate to Porte substance of my telegram No. 590, but you might obtain further particulars from Vice-Consul at Poti.

No. 128.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 541.)
Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the terms of the collective note to the Porte with regard to the reforms to be introduced into the provinces inhabited by Armenians, of which you inclose a copy and translation in your despatch No. 354 of the 14th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 129.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 542.)
Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE read with much interest the despatches from Captain Clayton which your Excellency forwarded to me in your despatch No. 357 of the 14th ultimo, containing an account of his journey in the Hakkiari and his interviews with Sheikh Obeydallah and others.

I should wish Captain Clayton's proceedings and his judicious language to the Sheikh to be approved; and I should be glad to receive any further information that can be procured as to the rumoured attempt to form a Kurdish League.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 130.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 387.)
Therapia, September 24, 1880,

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 352 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Captain Clayton forwarding a statement of the population of the Van Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 130.

Captain Clayton to Mr Goschen.

(No. 37.)
Van, August 20, 1880,

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of your Excellency's despatch of the 24th July, 1880, inclosing, for my observations, a printed copy of the Porte's reply to that part of the identic note recently addressed to it by the Great Powers which related to Armenia, and also a comparative statement of the population in Armenia drawn up at the Armenian Patriarchate.

The note of Abédine Pasha first calls attention to what has been already done for the purpose of carrying out the stipulations of Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin. The measures mentioned are: the despatch of Commissions to Kurdistan and other vilayets, the reorganization of the Nizamié Tribunals, and the institution of a gendarmerie.

The Imperial Commissioners came to Van on the 29th November last and remained till last week, they having started on the 12th instant for Bitlis, *en route* to Erzinjan. During their stay in Van they did good work in famine relief, and may probably have sent valuable reports to the Porte; but, as regards visible reforms, the result of their stay here has been absolutely *nil*.

The reorganization of the Tribunals has, as far as I can see, done more harm than good. The organization might be excellent if the men who worked it were upright; but when the Judges and officers of justice are either corrupt or liable to yield to underhand influences and interests, the new complicated machinery is only a source of increased

expense and a means of rendering ineffectual any interference by Consuls, as any one to whom the Consul may make representations can always shift the responsibility to some one else. I have already made observations on this subject in my despatches No. 6, Political, of the 16th February, and No. 13, Political, of the 20th April, 1880, to Major Trotter.

With regard to the gendarmerie, no sign of the commencement of its formation can be seen in the Vilayet of Van; and in the Vilayet of Bitlis, although Colonel Norton has arrived there ostensibly for the purpose of raising and organizing the gendarmerie, yet he informed me when I saw him in the middle of June that, though he had been in Bitlis since the beginning of April, no facilities were given him by the authorities, and up to that time he had been able to do absolutely nothing.

Such is the state of the case as regards the past.

With respect to the future, the proposed reforms alluded to in the note of Abédine Pasha are: (1) the reorganization of the nahiés or communes; (2) the establishment of Assizes going circuit; and (3) the appropriation of a fixed proportion of the revenues of the vilayets to Public Works and Instruction.

As regards (1), the reorganization of the communes, I do not see that any great improvement will be brought about by it. The evil of the present state of things lies not so much in faulty machinery as in the absence of integrity in those who work it. All power is in the hands of men who are corrupt and interested in the maintenance of the present disorder because they are able to make large profits by selling justice, by protecting criminals for valuable consideration, or by manipulating orders and regulations so as to influence the market according to their own interests. There is besides, in some cases, unquestionably ill-feeling and jealousy towards the Christians, and an inclination felt, if not expressed, to keep them down, lest they become too prosperous and powerful. In the proposed reorganization I see no means for counteracting these sinister influences. There is no guarantee that the appointment of Administrators and the election of Communal Councillors will be in the least degree purer than the selection of members of the existing Medjlisses. Elections can always, as now, be manipulated by the Kaimakams, so that creatures only of the Government and of the influential families shall be appointed. And even the form of a popular election is not to be gone through for the first appointments, which are to be made by the present notoriously corrupt Medjlisses. But even supposing the Administrators and Communal Councillors were fairly appointed, what power would they have of doing good? They are only the lowest grade of the administrative hierarchy, and all above remaining as it is, the corrupt superior officials and the influential families will find means enough to stop all measures which may go against their illegitimate interests. I may add that any scheme by which appointments are to be made, or the number of members in a Council arranged according to the relative proportions of different nationalities or religions in a certain locality, will certainly lead to disputes and trouble unless a very much more accurate census is taken than at present exists, as each nationality and creed will assuredly dispute the figures given by another. It seems to me that the best way of election, supposing freedom from foul play could be guaranteed, would be to have all members elected by the whole body of electors in a locality, but with a limit to the number of members for whom an elector could vote, so that the minority might be sure of being represented. With such an arrangement the result of the election itself would secure the majority of members to the party possessing a majority of population without the disputation that would be caused by laying down the proportions by a fixed regulation. But, even so, difficulties would be sure to arise from the contention of the Armenians that Kurds and Circassians should not be admitted to any power.

As regards (2), the institution of Assizes going circuit it would no doubt be an immense boon if the integrity of the Judges could be assured; but here, again, the difficulty is that the best machinery is useless unless you have the men to work it properly, and for this the scheme gives no guarantee.

With respect to point (3), of course there can be no doubt of the advantage of having a certain income available for Public Works and Instruction that can be calculated on, but Abédine Pasha's note does not show very clearly what is intended. If it is intended that from the receipts of a vilayet (with the exception of the sources of revenue mentioned), first of all the expenses of the Local Administration shall be paid, and that then one-tenth of the balance shall be retained for Public Works and Instruction before anything is transmitted to Constantinople, the principle is good, but I fear that the sum thus made available will be very small for some time, supposing proper salaries and pay are given regularly to officials, troops, and gendarmerie.

On the whole, I cannot feel sanguine of much good resulting from the reforms proposed in the Porte's note even if they were carried into execution. What is necessary before any manipulation of machinery is a certain number of superior officials with executive power, of such a character as to be above corruption, and with sufficient independence to be able to resist the evil influences which are brought to bear on all functionaries, and it seems to me that the majority of these must be Europeans. If the Porte is left to choose such officials from its own subjects, I do not see any guarantee that men of the character required will be appointed even if they can be found.

As regards the imputation that crimes and oppressions are invented by the Armenians to be reported to Europe and the Consuls, I am convinced that the cases that I have reported are substantially true, though there may no doubt have been some exaggeration in the numbers of cattle, sheep, &c., carried off by the Kurds. The Kurdish raids and robberies are notorious, and scarcely any one attempts to deny them, and as to the general maladministration and failure of justice, Mussulmans who are not immediately interested parties are nearly as loud in their invectives against the Government officials, Courts, and influential families as the Christians. There is perhaps, however, sometimes a tendency with the Armenians to impute the positive evil motive of a desire to destroy or drive out the Christians, when there is no real evidence of more than apathy and corruption.

As regards the announced results of the census, I am not in a position to give an opinion of the population except in the case of the Vilayet of Van, but much caution will be necessary in accepting the Turkish official figures. No careful census was, I know, taken in this vilayet, and I heard all sorts of stories of the officials who were supposed to be making the enumeration putting down figures at random as best suited their ideas. But with regard to the population of the Vilayet of Van, and the statistics of the Armenian Patriarch, I inclose a digest of some Tables of population obtained from Armenian sources here. These Tables give the names of all the villages, with the number of inhabitants.

In this tabular view it will be seen that the number of Armenians amounts to 138,559, and of Mussulmans to 109,640, so that although these Tables come from an Armenian source, the proportion of Mussulmans to Armenians is considerably larger than that given by the Armenian Patriarch. I think it probable that the numbers of Armenians in these Tables is pretty fairly reckoned, but I am inclined to believe that the village Kurds are somewhat under-estimated, and I feel pretty sure the Ashiret Kurds are considerably so. But it is extremely difficulty to get even an approximate estimate of the numbers of the Kurds. The estimate of the Nestorians in these Tables is vague and unreliable, but I have appended the numbers I obtained in my recent visit to Hakkiari for comparison. The Tabular statement will show how large a mixture of the Mussulman element there is, except in limited districts, even in this vilayet, in which the proportion of Armenians is probably greater than in any other. The Tables do not include the districts formerly belonging to the Vilayet of Van, which have now been transferred to that of Bitlis. I have as yet been unable to obtain any statistics of the population of that vilayet.

I may add that the Armenians here are not at all satisfied with the reforms proposed in the note of the Porte which has been published in the newspapers, as they say the power will still remain in the hands of the men who now cause all the misgovernment and misery in the country. With this view my opinion, as already expressed, entirely coincides.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 130.

TABULAR view of Population of Vilayet of Van.

Districts.	Armenians.	Turks.	Village Kurds.*	Nestorians.	Jews.	Persians.
City of Van	22,460	8,450	..	..	..	..
District of Van	27,329	4,996	..	897	..	..
,, Pergri	2,200	230	..	..	..	..
,, Kaidpercouni	9,514	2,870	..	..	..	..
,, Artyge	11,578	3,165	..	..	..	..
,, Mukus	7,420	..	2,764	..	..	..
,, Ilizau	6,415	..	971	..	..	..
,, Spargerd	3,568	..	1,651	..	..	..
,, Shadakh	6,651	..	3,848	..	..	..
,, Nurduz	2,796	..	1,705	507	..	..
,, Rahdanik	5,844	..	1,814	..	..	..
,, Dargar	3,192	..	536	..	..	..
,, Getzoon	943	..	1,072	..	..	..
,, Hay-Vosken	8,763	..	2,520	..	..	..
,, Ellak	8,370	..	8,856	1,457	331†	..
,, Gevver	4,405	..	4,476	4,999	321†	..
,, Gardjgan	4,785	..	1,286	..	..	..
,, Khoshab	1,867	..	3,357	..	..	..
,, Kotour	701	..	1,982	..	..	200
,, Johanerik	440	..	4,845	? 76,879	..	..
Three independent villages ..	..	..	1,000	..	..	..
Total	136,401	19,711	42,519	?	363	200
Armenian monks	2,158	..	..	..	..	..
Ashiret Kurds	..	..	47,210	..	..	..
Grand total	136,559	19,711	89,729	?	363	200

Total Armenians 136,559
,, Mussulmans 109,640
,, Nestorians (from other sources) 56,949

* The numbers given for Kurds include Yezidis and Circassians.
† Jews underestimated.

No. 131.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville. (*Received October 4.*)

(No. 389.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 24, 1880.

I BEG to inclose a despatch from Captain Clayton to Major Trotter No. 26 of the 24th ultimo.

Captain Clayton has done good service in thus bringing together as many distinct cases of outrage and crime as have been brought to his notice, and in rebutting the case which the Porte is attempting to make out.

I have spoken so often and so strongly to the Porte on the state of things in the Vilayet of Van that I am doubtful as to what further steps I can take. I shall wait some little time before I make a fresh remonstrance to the present Ministry, because I am convinced that at the present moment little heed would be paid to my representations.

I have informed your Lordship how impossible it is to insure attention being given by the Porte to any question at present; and the antecedents of the present Prime Minister are such that I do not anticipate any improvement whatever under his auspices, but, on the contrary, more resistance to such steps as I might take.

But the time must come very soon when the Porte must again be told that the condition of the Armenians, as described by Captain Clayton, is intolerable and inconsistent with Treaty obligations, and the subject must be dealt with not only by isolated remonstrances, but as a question connected with the demands made in the last collective note of the Powers on the subject of the reforms to be secured to the provinces inhabited by Armenians.

I shall not fail to communicate with my colleagues on the steps to be taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 26. Political.)
Sir,

Van, August 24, 1880.

THE Turkish authorities are at present doing their utmost to make it appear that the condition of this country is perfectly satisfactory, that all the complaints made by the Armenians are false, and that the people are generally contented.

Yesterday the Vali Pasha, in conversation with me, tried to convince me that all the stories of wrongs told by the Armenians were lies. He said that he had sent Ghalib Pasha, Tahir Bey, Hajji Mustapha Effendi, and others to examine the state of the country, and that when they returned they took their oaths that there was no truth in the stories of robbery and oppression, and that the people were perfectly contented. Now Ghalib Pasha and Tahir Bey are members of the family of Temur Oglou, the most hated and feared in all this country, and Hajji Mustapha Effendi is the man who had to be removed from his position as President of the Criminal Tribunal at Bashkala on account of the multitude of complaints made against him. The testimony of such men cannot be worth much, as the people would be far too terrified to dare to express to them their complaints. Moreover, people have come to me from some of the regions where these persons have been, who said that they have been inducing the different Medjlisses to sign papers expressing their satisfaction with the Government and with the present condition of affairs; but my informants said the opinion of the people was not thus expressed. I hear also that the people of Van have been got to sign a paper saying that the only thing that they want is for roads and public works to be undertaken to improve the trade of the country.

No doubt an attempt is to be made to induce Europe to believe that all is here as it should be, and that intervention is unnecessary.

In reality, the case is far different. Wherever I go the same complaints reach me, that the peasantry are never safe, day or night, from the incursions and robberies, or worse, of their Kurdish neighbours. It is unfortunately the case that a strict regard for truth is lamentably wanting in this country, and it is necessary to exercise the greatest caution in accepting the stories brought to one; but such a general consensus of complaint cannot be altogether without foundation, especially as, during my recent journeys, I have come across cases of villages plundered in the immediate neighbourhood of where I was at the time, when the facts were not denied even by the Kurds themselves that I saw, though they disclaimed having anything personally to do with it.

The ex-Patriarch Chrimian sent to me a few days ago a list of the occurrences which had been brought to his official notice during the four months—April, May, June, and July, 1880—and inscribed in the register of the Armenian Episcopate. From this list I extract the following principal cases:—

April $\frac{3}{15}$.—Two hours from Van a Nestorian was murdered by Kurds.

April $\frac{7}{19}$.—The mill of Akhtamar Monastery was plundered.

April $\frac{7}{19}$.—A mill in Norkuk was plundered.

April $\frac{7}{19}$.—The mills of Monasteries of Surp Nishan and Nareg were plundered.

April $\frac{8}{20}$.—Villagers of Karaholi, near Bashkala, having obtained a little corn, were plundered and stripped on the road home.

April $\frac{12}{24}$.—In Pertag, one hour from Van, the store of an Armenian was broken into by a neighbour Kurd, and all the grain there carried away.

April $\frac{20}{2}$.—Peranuli Kurds pastured their flocks on young corn at El Jivas.

An Armenian of Karabané, in Bashkala district, who had obtained some corn for his family, was attacked on the road, plundered, and severely wounded.

The daughter of Minas, of Hashishud, was abducted forcibly, and converted to Islam.

May $\frac{10}{22}$.—Seven oxen carried away from village of Averag.

May $\frac{14}{26}$.—Men of Ali Khan attacked and plundered six villages in district of Bashkala.

May $\frac{24}{6}$.—In village of Zkhig, in Dargar, an Armenian was murdered by his Kurdish neighbour, and his brother severely wounded.

May $\frac{31}{13}$.—The Melek of Haiazon, who had gone to Bashkala to fetch some cattle, was attacked on the road back, robbed, and wounded.

June $\frac{1}{13}$.—A locksmith of Nurduz, going to his work, was attacked and stripped.

June $\frac{7}{19}$.—Eight oxen, belonging to an Armenian of Lesk, near Van, were carried off.

June $\frac{21}{July\ 3}$.—An ox and horse, belonging to an Armenian of Haspistan, were carried off.

June 27 July 9.—The corpse of a murdered man was found in the Turkish cemetery at the gate of Van, and buried by the authorities without any inquiry.

Kurds reaped the barley-field of an Armenian of Lesk and carried off the produce.

Six oxen belonging to an Armenian of Kowro were carried off.

July $\frac{3}{15}$.—Varten of Vareg was attacked on road between Ardamid and Van, and robbed of 19 liras, 79 medjidiés, and all his clothes.

July $\frac{6}{18}$.—Thirty sheep were carried off from flocks of Monastery of Warakh.

July $\frac{7}{19}$.—Two cows and an ox of an Armenian of Lesk were carried off.

July $\frac{8}{20}$.—The flocks of village of Akhourik were carried off by neighbouring Kurds.

July $\frac{12}{24}$.—Forty horsemen of Ashiret of Khargin attacked two villages in Kawash, and carried off 372 sheep.

The Shikaks attacked some villages in Bashkala. The inhabitants, Armenians and Kurds together, resisted, but eventually the robbers carried off large numbers of sheep and cattle.

July $\frac{17}{29}$.—The cattle and flocks of Salakhan, a village in Khoshab, were carried off.

July $\frac{19}{31}$.—Kurds carried off flocks of village of Daraheg, and, being pursued, slaughtered thirty sheep, and succeeded in carrying off the remainder.

July 29 August 10.—Two Armenians of Mukus were robbed and murdered on the road to Sert.

July 22 to 25 August 4 to 6.—A body of Djelali Kurds from Persian frontier, variously estimated at from 200 to 400 horsemen, attacked and plundered several villages in district of Pergri.

July 23 August 6.—Two Armenians were murdered in Shaddakh.

July 27 August 9.—The Djelali Kurds attacked two villages in Khoshab, and pillaged them, killing four persons.

July 28 August 10.—Oxen which had been distributed to about thirty villagers of Bashkala by Armenian Charitable Commission were carried off by Kurds.

With regard to this list, I saw the ex-Patriarch, and questioned him closely as to the truth of what was written, and he said he was perfectly sure that the main facts were correct, though in some cases the number of sheep, &c., carried off might have been exaggerated.

Moreover, with regard to some of the principal events, I have strong corroborative evidence. The robberies of the Shikaks no one denies; they were almost of daily occurrence when I was lately in the Bashkala region, and I personally came across a plundering party of them, who a few minutes previously had robbed five Nestorians on the road. As regards the recent raids of the Djelali Kurds, that also is undenied, and the Government has sent troops to Pergri in consequence. The murders which took place in Shaddakh and Mukus I heard of from several different directions on my journeys through districts in the direction of Shaddakh and Mukus, and it is impossible to believe that in many different directions a combination should have been made to spread a false report. Further, as I have already said, several villages were robbed in my immediate neighbourhood during my recent journeys.

The authorities cannot entirely deny the Kurdish raids and robberies, but endeavour to make light of them and of the other crimes, saying that the principal harm comes from Persian Kurds, for whom they are not responsible, and that as to the rest such things happen in other countries. That is no doubt the case, and many of the things reported would be of trifling importance if taken by themselves, and if, as in most countries, efforts were made to detect and punish the criminals. But what makes the matter serious here is the general feeling of insecurity caused by the multiplication of misdeeds, in themselves often of small importance, and by their remaining unpunished, through the apathy or corruption of those who ought to uphold the law and guard the security of the country.

Therefore, the Christians are profoundly discontented, and ready to turn their eyes to any quarter from which they may think they can obtain some assistance. They are also at present rather excited with political dreams, and some settlement is desirable to calm down excited spirits on all sides.

At the same time, I am inclined to think matters are not worse this year than in the last two or three years; in fact, in many parts, I rather fancy they are slightly better, though in others the people say they are worse.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 132.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 5.*)

(No. 395.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Confidential despatch from Major Trotter, containing some observations on the Armeno-Kurdish question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Major Trotter to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 38. Confidential.)

Sir, *Constantinople, September 14, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to submit a few remarks on the Armenian question, suggested by a perusal of various documents to which I have recently had access.*

With reference to Odian Effendi's memoranda, herewith returned, I observe that the somewhat astounding statement is therein made that "les Turcs et les Kurdes de l'Arménie sont des Arméniens convertis à l'Islamisme." The truth of this statement cannot, of course, for a moment be admitted.

I would also wish to correct a misstatement in the same document, as to Sir Henry Layard having substituted the name of Kurdistan for that of Armenia. When I was gazetted last year as Consul of Kurdistan, Lord Salisbury was merely following precedent, as my predecessors, Messrs. Taylor and Zohrab, were both designated by the above title.

In consequence of the discussion raised at the time by the Armenian newspapers at Constantinople, I addressed a despatch to Sir Henry Layard,† suggesting the possible desirability of a change in the title of the Consulate. Sir Henry Layard replied,‡ "After deliberation upon the subject, Lord Salisbury has come to the conclusion that it is not desirable to make the change you suggest."

With reference to Odian Effendi's statistics of population, I have, in a despatch§ submitted some days ago to your Excellency, gone carefully into the general question, and have, I think, shown that little or no reliance can be placed on figures derived from the Armenian Patriarchate.

The conclusions at which I have arrived are, that in the provinces of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis (which it has been proposed to form into one large province under an Armenian Governor-General) the Christian population (including the Nestorians) is, roughly speaking, about one-third of the whole, the remaining two-thirds being Moslems. Of the Moslems, the large majority are Kurds, so that the Armenians, who form rather more than one-quarter of the whole population, although considerably outnumbering the Turks, are in their turn considerably outnumbered by the Kurds.

Taking the whole of the vilayets in my Consular district (*i.e.*, Diarbekir and Kharput in addition to the above), I estimate the Christians at about two-sevenths of the entire population.

Admitting, however, that my figures are only very approximate, and also, possibly, very erroneous, there can be no doubt that the only satisfactory solution of this question will be found in the census which the Ambassadors have proposed should be made by the Sublime Porte.

In any census that be made care should be taken to discriminate between the different classes of the Mahommedan population.

In many disturbed districts it may be found difficult, or even impossible, to make a correct enumeration of the people.

I agree with Odian Effendi that the question as to who forms the majority or minority is a question of comparative unimportance—what is wanted is security of life and property for all, whether Armenian or Nestorian, Turk or Kurd. I admit that one of the most glaring defects of the present system is the entire absence of Christians from employment as executive administrative officers; but it will not do to upset the

* Memorandum by Odian Effendi, submitted confidentially to Sir C. Dilke, Foreign Office despatch No. 250 of July 15, 1880; Inclosure in No. 98, Confidential, of March 1, 1880.

† No. 18 of July 15, 1879.

‡ No. 23 of August 23, 1879.

§ No. 37 of September 7, 1880.

present system too suddenly—a sort of interregnum is necessary, and it is for this period of interregnum that I would recommend, as absolutely essential, the employment in high positions of European officials. If the administration be successfully carried on for a period of ten years, at the end of that period a better feeling than at present will probably exist between class and class, and a body of employés, Christians and Moslems, may meanwhile have been trained up, to whom the government of the country may safely be confided without the fear of a bloody revolution.

Your Excellency has kindly afforded me a perusal of the last collective note submitted to the Porte on the Armenian question.

In that document the Powers, while pressing on the Porte the execution of the terms of the Berlin Treaty, have necessarily laid special stress on the claims of the Armenian Christians to protection and redress of grievances. In the present temper of the Turkish Government and press, there is much reason to fear that the latter will be encouraged to propagate the false notion that Her Majesty's Government is only interesting itself in the welfare of the Christian subjects of the Porte to the exclusion of the Moslems. Such an impression, whether well founded or not, would have a most injurious effect both in the capital and in the provinces. If Her Majesty's Government comes forward as the champion of the oppressed and ill-governed subjects of the Porte generally, I believe the majority of the inhabitants of the frontier provinces to be so profoundly dissatisfied with the existing misgovernment, that if convinced that we were really working in the interests of the population generally, they would cordially welcome any substantial proposals we might make for reform, and we should have the support of the vast mass of the population in the extremely difficult task which we have set ourselves to accomplish, instead of having to encounter the active, and, perhaps, armed opposition of the majority.

If England only takes up the cudgels for the Christian population, the result will probably be to set class against class in a manner still more decided than at present, and to alienate from us whatever sympathy exists amongst the Moslem population both in European and Asiatic Turkey.

There is no doubt that in very many places the Kurds suffer more from misgovernment than the Christians do. They have no Consuls to look up to as their special protectors, no Bishops to telegraph sensational and often exaggerated accounts of their woes; in fact, no one to look to for redress or protection.

The public often erroneously supposes that nearly all the Kurds are nomads, and that all are robbers; whereas in point of fact the great majority of the Kurds are sedentary, and although but very indifferent agriculturists, many of them possess, in addition to their herds, which they pasture in the neighbouring hills, a certain amount of cultivated land. With the exception of the Aghas, who are often rich, the great mass of the sedentary Kurds are poor. The nomad Kurds, on the other hand, are many of them extremely wealthy in flocks and herds. It is true that in their migrations from one pasture ground to another robberies and oppressions are often committed by members of these tribes, too often with the sanction and under the protection of their Chiefs. Some tribes, again, have earned a far worse reputation than others, the most mischievous of all being the frontier tribes—mixed Turkish and Persian subjects.

I can see no reason whatever why the sedentary Kurds should not be subject to the same laws and institutions as the Christians.

They are ill-educated, it is true; all the more reason for putting schools and education within their reach. I believe them to be just as easily governed as the Christians.

There are, of course, certain wild, unsettled districts where the inhabitants are under no control, but this is entirely the fault of the general maladministration of the country. A strong and just Government would, I firmly believe, soon reduce these districts to quiet and order.

The question of the nomad pastoral tribes is one of great difficulty, but I can see no reason why they, too, should not be brought under proper control, without striving against nature, and attempting the (to me) unnatural process of forcibly transforming nomad pastoral tribes into sedentary agricultural habits. There exists even now in most tribes a Mudir, generally the principal Chief, who is the recognized medium of communication between Government and the tribe.

This system might be extended, and a high functionary, a European if possible, might be appointed with the title of "Ashireth Memur," who should be the principal medium of communication between the Government and all the nomad Kurdish tribes.

This officer (who should have assistants under his orders) should have a small but efficient escort, and should be constantly on the move, going from tribe to tribe, keeping himself thoroughly acquainted with their numbers and habitats. I believe that an active and energetic officer invested with full powers for summarily arresting and punishing robbers would, if working in co-operation with a good Governor, in a short time effect a vast improvement on the present order of things.

The depredations of the frontier Kurds will require special treatment, in which the co-operation of the Persian Government would be necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 133.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 397.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches from Colonel Wilson, inclosing despatches addressed to him by Lieutenant Chermside with regard to the affairs of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 133.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 57.)
Sir, *Therapia, September 22, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of two despatches which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside, C.M.G., R.E., respecting the refugees in the Sivas Vilayet, and the proposed formation of a new sandjak or vilayet to the south of Sivas.

The state of the border districts alluded to in Lieutenant Chermside's despatch was brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Ambassador last year by myself and by Captain Cooper, lately Vice-Consul at Kaisariyeh; since that time, matters appear to have become worse.

The proposal to form a new vilayet, which should include the border-lands of the five Vilayets of Sivas, Adana, Aleppo, Kharput, and Angora, seems well calculated to meet the difficulties of the case. A somewhat similar arrangement was, I believe, proposed by the Vilayet Boundary Commission which sat last year.

The districts form part of the territory inhabited by Armenians, and I would venture to submit that Lieutenant Chermside's suggestion be taken into consideration when the reforms to be introduced are discussed in detail.

I would beg to suggest that the map, which contains some new and valuable geographical information, be sent to the Intelligence Department of the War Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 133.

Lieutenant Chermside to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Sivas, August 26, 1880.*

IN answer to your telegram of the 23rd August, calling for a Report on the refugee question, I have the honour to forward the following information:—

The history of the refugees in this vilayet is briefly this:—

During 1878 and 1879 refugees came into the Sivas Vilayet to the number of 25,000 souls, according to an approximate estimate. These were of two classes: those who came by sea from Roumelia, Soukhoum, &c., and those who came by land from the Asiatic districts ceded to Russia. The former were by far the most destitute; and those passed on from Djanik to the Sivas Vilayet probably numbered over 15,000 souls. They consisted principally of Abkhasians (Circassians) from Bulgaria and

Roumelia, and Tatars from Bulgaria, the Dobrudscha, &c. The Vali, Hakki Pasha, offered me a tabular statement, giving the number of those settled in the Djanik Sandjak and those passed on to Angora and Sivas; but as it has already been given to you, Sir, and recorded in your despatches, I need not reproduce it. The other section of these people, amounting to some 10,000 souls, came by land, and for the most part possessed some property in the way of arabas, horses, live stock, &c., much of which, however, has perished in the past rigorous winter. The latter section consisted principally of Circassians from the ceded districts, Gabartai, Tegai, and Dughur and Daghistanlas, called Terkémé (many are Kizil-Bash) Georgians, and Turks.

A Table was prepared of date the 5th April, giving the distribution of both these sections; this was afterwards given to Baker Pasha, who promised me a translated copy, which I have not yet received. I asked the Vali for a copy, which he sent for; but as these people were many of them only cantoned for the winter, as the whole distribution has now been changed, after looking at it he declared it was now so erroneous as to be only misleading, and that for that reason he preferred not giving it to me. He ordered in my presence two Tables to be made out, one being for me, which he promised I should have in a day or two; as, however, I may be long in getting this return, I do not think it right to delay my Report. He dictated to me the totals of the old Table, which I will give below. Two highly-salaried officials, Kemali Pasha and Tewfik Bey, at salaries of 20,000 piastres and 6,000 piastres a-month, were appointed, and arrived in the district in November and July 1878 respectively; the former quitted it in February 1879, and the latter remained till last September. The Commission appointed comprised, besides these individuals, local members, namely, Mehemet Ali Effendi, Kaugal Aghassi (Moslem Notables), Baurhan Effendi, Hussein Aghn, and Bahri Bey.

After the departure of Tewfik Bey, the Commission remained constituted as above; its presidency was transferred to Mehemet Ali. Matters remained thus, the members, however, not attending, until Hakki Pasha's arrival.

Kangal Aghassi, owing, it is said, to his duties as a member of the Idaré, resigned. Four Kars members were added after the new Vali's arrival.

At present the Commission nominally consists of the President, Mehemet Ali, four Kars people, three native Moslems, and a clerk. The members appear never to sit, and practically the whole matter is in the hands of the President.

The return above mentioned, the promised copy of which I have no doubt Baker Pasha would readily furnish you with, but which, owing to changes and the recent immigration, is now quite out of date, gives as a result the following:—

Sivas Vilayet.

	Refugees Families.	Number of Souls.	
Sivas Sandjak	1,696	9,879	Chiefly Abkhasians and Roumelian Circassians.
Tocat	450	1,870	
Amasia	1,103	6,260	Mostly Circassians and Tatars.
Kara Hissar Sandjak ..	879	4,331	Lazes, Terkémé Georgians, Turks, and Circassians.
Total	4,490	22,335	

Subsequently more who had been living in cantonments as best they could moved into Tocat and Amasia. A return of these had not been received, so is not included.

Of the above, 1,307 families (6,240 souls) had been given dwellings up to that date, but only 324 families (1,240 souls) had been put in possession of houses and lands; 2,860 families (14,855 souls) were being maintained in the villages as guests. Thus, over two-thirds remained totally unprovided for, and after February the ration dole was discontinued.

The professed establishment of many as to house-room was, I regret to say, a mere euphemism. They occupied empty houses, barns, and buildings lent to them in cases, and were often crowded up, and, from what I have seen, it would hardly do to accept this statement as meaning that the number of families given were really in possession of the rude homesteads in which the peasantry of the country live.

Grain was sown for the refugees last year. Possibly the seed in cases was furnished by the Government, but, in most of the cases I am acquainted with, it was merely a paper transaction. Villagers were ordered to sow so much grain in their own

fields to be harvested for the refugees; allowance was to be made to them for the amount in regulating their tax account with the Government. House-room, chopped straw, firewood, even food was furnished to them gratis by the existing villages. The brunt of this forced entertainment fell on the Sunni Moslem villages; at the same time I have come across both Kizil-Bash and Christian villages with refugees billeted on them.

The Vali complains that the latter are the only people who have neglected to obey the orders as to sowing grain, and instances an example at Zara, where I believe it is the case. The matter was in this state at the beginning of summer. Since that time there has been a large and continuous influx of refugees from the Kars district—1,340 families were to arrive by land *en route* for Angora, 1,400 for the Vilayet of Sivas. These may be taken as amounting to upwards of 15,000 people.

In addition to these, large numbers from the neighbourhood of Batoum were landed at Samsun, who are, I understand, as might be expected, destitute of means of transport and without live stock, and whose maintenance and distribution, therefore, make far more serious calls on the Government. About 1,000 families—say 5,000 persons—of these have entered the Sandjaks of Amasia and Tocat. I have no personal knowledge of the conditions of these people. Very many of the refugees destined for the Angora Vilayet attempt to remain here. They declare, the Vali assures me, that they received no order in writing, or that it was for Sivas, but that they have lost it, and at present very few, I believe, have passed beyond the confines of this vilayet. The original number was 22,335, plus unknown number in Sandjak of Amasia—say 25,000. This has been increased by 2,300 to 2,400 families for this district—say 11,000 or 12,000 souls—besides 7,000 *en route* for Angora.

There is, however, reason to believe that the immigrants are considerably in excess of the numbers given to the Vali. This number is now, I have been informed both privately and by the Vali, to be further supplemented by an additional large number of Kars refugees, from which district there seems to be a complete Moslem exodus. As regards the distribution, as I have said, the April return is now worthless, as the people have not remained in the same sandjaks and cazas for settlement in which they were cantoned for the winter. In Azizieh there cannot, I believe, be less than 600 to 700 families, and, as I reported in my despatch No. 13 at the time I visited the caza, dwellings for 400 families were said to be in hand. Very numerous refugees have been sent to Zilleh (Tocat) and Yildiz Ili (Sivas).

The affair is on such a large scale that I do not like, on the strength of my own limited opportunities of personal observation, to advance sweeping assertions. The present moment, too, is the critical period, and on what is done within the next few weeks depends the condition in which the approach of winter will find this mass of unfortunate people.

At Azizieh a good deal is being done, but I have seen refugees returning thence, unready to attempt settlement with their small resources on the bare bleak uplands assigned to them.

Some of the villagers there have great and equitable cause of complaint, whatever technical, legal, or abstract right the Government may have for establishing the refugees on the land they occupy. The north and west I have not visited since the recent influx, and inquired your wishes on the subject in a private letter by last post, but it struck me, when there before, that it would considerably tax the energy and resources of the local authorities to settle even the former arrivals before next winter, especially if they were to plough and sow for themselves. Of the unsatisfactory proceedings of the former highly-salaried officials, of the manner of distribution, the want of organization, effect of local influence and the aspect of the question in details, I need not write in this Report; you yourself, Sir, have written of it, and in my despatches Nos. 9 and 13 I have written of its more recent phases. Of the people detained here as long as thirty days bivouacking with their wives and children, exposed to sun and weather, the sickness, unnecessary privations and hardships, I have also written. At present none of the people bivouacking round the city have been here over eighteen to twenty days. It is sad to see the sick and paupers. There is no hospital for the former. The people seem to have come here without having duly weighed what they were doing, and the movement having been doubtless fostered by the Government, has been followed by the mass, with the same unreasoning spirit that animates a flock of sheep; many now bitterly regret having come, and would gladly go back if the season and other considerations permitted of it. I have already mentioned the discontent and numerous complaints against the Commission, many well grounded, as far as I can judge. As I have avoided the Commissioner, the notorious Mehemet Ali, almost the

only man who could give any detailed information, I have none to offer. Even had I this, I fear, without undertaking an extensive tour, it would be impossible to give a trustworthy opinion as to the actual state of matters, and the probable one on the advent of winter, but I fear there is very little hope of all these people being permanently settled this season. All I can assert is that there is now no great block of them at Sivas, not more than 100 families, and that the others have been despatched to the various sub-districts, with orders for the local authorities to establish them. The question is one on which I make constant representations to the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 133.

Lieutenant Chermside to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Sivas, August* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have been recently visiting some of the southern cazas of this vilayet, the borders of the Angora, Aleppo, Adana, and Kharput Vilayets, and I found matters in a very troubled condition, the authority of the local Governors very slight, robbery and outrage rife, commerce at a standstill, and very great anarchy and trouble, due to various causes, but in a great measure to the great distance of the outskirts of these contiguous districts from their respective centres. The district I would write of lies to the north of the Taurus, and comprises the Anti-Taurus as far north as the Uzun Yaila, while it extends eastward to the Argja Dagh, a caza lying between Darende and the Malatia Plain; at various times during the past year and a half I have visited the various parts of this, and I have now a tolerably intimate acquaintance with the whole district. I would wish now to submit for your consideration, and if you approve for that of his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, the proposition of urging the Turkish Government to form here either a small vilayet such as those of Bitlis and Kharput, or a new sandjak. The district comprises the Caza of Elbistan, the Nahié of Gyuk Sun, part or the whole of the Caza of Hadjin, the Caza of Azizieh, that of Gurun and Darende, the Nahié of Aivalu, and part of the Caza of Argja Dagh; possibly it would be found well to add the Nahié of Kangal and the Caza of Divrik on the north, and the districts near Kaisarieh on the south-west.

First, as regards Elbistan and Gyuk Sun, these districts come under the Aleppo Administration, with which they have no natural physical connection, being separated from it by the whole width of the Taurus. Aleppo is the centre of an Arab-speaking district, while those in question are Turkish, and so far removed from it that its influence is hardly felt; one is 60 miles, the other 70 miles, of very difficult mountain paths, from the Government of Marash, which lies to the south of the Taurus. Gyuk Sun, a nahié of Andarin, is a settlement full of turbulent Circassians.

Of the lamentable state of the Elbistan and Andarin Cazas I had several times occasion to write last year, and it was to my great regret that Said Pasha could not visit them. I advocated their being detached from Aleppo at that time. Hadjin marches with Gyuk Sun, a nahié or commune of Andarin; it is dependent on Adana, in the Cilician Plain, as head-quarters, local sub-government at Sis or Kozan, just to the south of the Taurus. The caza stretches right away up the Valley of the Seihoun or Sarus to the ruins of Comana, a district inhabited by Avshars, a Turkish-speaking tribe, formerly subject to the Armenian Kings, and I believe of Armenian origin; this mountainous district, lying at the junction of four vilayets, is a noted stronghold of robbers. Azizieh is a settlement of fourteen years date, principally Circassian, and occupies the grassy uplands and the mountains about the head-waters of the Zamanta and Seihoun Rivers; it contains Avshars and Armenians as well.

Gurun is the next caza; the population of this is small, and consists principally of that of the long straggling town and gardens of Gurun, which lies in the deep limestone gorge of the Tochma Su, a tributary of the Euphrates; the Armenians (of the town) are more numerous than the Moslems (Turks).

Twenty miles east-south-east lies Darondo, in the same valley, a caza noted for robbery and insecurity. This marches on the south with Elbistan, on the east with Argja Dagh, a caza of Malatia, inhabited by wild Kurdish mountaineers, noted robbers. The district is, indeed, traversed by no caravan routes; the valley of the Tochma Su is often merely a narrow, yawning limestone chasm, and the country

difficult. The present seat of the Government is Arga, a village on the slopes above the fertile Malatia Plain, and until three or four months ago this district depended on Diarbekir! Brigands can thus dodge about from the territory of Diarbekir to that of Aleppo, Sivas, Adana, and Angora, within a day or two's march. If the change I advocate were made, the Argja Dagh district should, I think, be divided near an old castle on a spur to the south of the dark, rocky gorge of the Tochma, about 20 miles from Darende. Owing to defective communications and the great distance of the provincial centres from their frontier, which prevents their influence being felt in the outlying districts, I have long been of opinion that the Turkish provinces were too big units, and vilayets or administrative sandjaks, such as those of Kharput, Djanik, Ismidt, &c., seem to me rather the desideratum than vilayets such as Baghdad, which, not many years ago, contained eleven sandjaks. The sandjak, or groups of one or two sandjaks, appear better units, though, perhaps, these might advantageously be united into great natural divisions, not for increment or repetition of labour and accounts, obstructive delay of business, or actual details of routine administration, but for military considerations, development of general community of interest, schemes for public works, commercial undertakings, legislation, &c.—such groups as Baghdad, Kurdistan, or North and South Kurdistan, Syria, or Syria North and South, Anatolia East and West.

The Turkish Government have themselves begun the sub-division of these great provinces; thus, the old Vilayet of Baghdad now comprises those of Baghdad, Kerkuk (Mosul), Basrah, while part of Zor (Deir) has been detached to Aleppo and other districts to Damascus. The old Aleppo district now forms Adana and Aleppo; the old Erzeroum Vilayet became Erzeroum and Van, and now Van, Bitlis, and Erzeroum; Diarbekir has ceded Sert to Bitlis and Malatia to Kharput, over which its jurisdiction has ceased, the latter being now a vilayet. There is, of course, the question of expense, but now that the vilayets and districts are arranged in classes and official salaries are much reduced, I do not see why the proposed change should necessitate much, if any, increment of expenditure; at any rate, it is one I would strongly advocate, and the development of the region in question ought to amply compensate any augmentation of expenditure.

One of the main causes of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in Elbistan and Gurun is the migration of the nomads from the Hammuk Ovasi, or Antioch Plain, the Shukur Ovasi, or Great Cilician Plain, and other localities (the plains of Giaour Dagh district), to their summer pastures in the district just mentioned. I have given in former despatches a full account of their settlement some fifteen years ago, of the new towns that were built, &c., and of how these have fallen to ruin, and of how the nomads for the past three years, after deserting and in many cases destroying their villages, have resumed their old habits. I have described, too, the damage which their annual passages along the only three or four practicable tracks through the mountains occasion to the neighbouring residents. These nomads are Turkmen (I believe Seljuk and Kurdish tribes): Bogdoughalou (Cilician Plain, banks of Jehan, 20 miles south from Sis), come up viâ Kars to Anti-Taurus, near Comana, or viâ Geben and Mariantche. Rahanlu, Turkmen (Islahia Plain, east of Giaour Dagh); Nederlu, Turkmen (banks of Jehan, near embouchure of gorge leading to Cilician Plain; Jegerlu, Turkmen (between Ak Su, south of Marash and Giaour Dagh), move by Dunkalat or Furnus and Gyuk Sun routes, cross Jehan or Pyramus near Marash. Teli-Kanlu, Kurds (Islahia and Hassa), move by pass known as "Kissuk" or the Kanlu Dagh track. Deli-Kanlu, Kurds (between Kurt Dagh and Giaour Dagh and towards Hamuk Ova), move by same routes as last. Of the Chakallu (near head-waters of Kara Su, which flows into Antioch Lake), who cross and recross the Giaour Dagh and use either the Andarin, Gyuk Sun, Furnus, Esson Déré, or "Kissuk" routes, and a Turkmen tribe from the Basardjik Plain, I have seen nothing this year. The latter use the Kanlu Dagh-Sarai route. The bare, open, elevated pasture lands these tribes occupied in summer, on the long, gradual, upward slope from Elbistan to the Uzun Yaila, have in many cases had their most favoured gallies and sheltered nooks brought under cultivation. Villages and farms have been made. The nomads, not content with their newly-regained liberty, assert their time-honoured right to these, consider the settlers invaders, and finding the reins of Government loose, have done very great damage to crops and property. Indeed, in the Gurun Caza things are so bad that the Vali gave the order in my presence for immediate despatch of additional force. After some experience of the summer climate of the localities the nomads are called upon to live in, and the knowledge, from living among these kindly, primitive, simple people, of all they have had to undergo, I am not anxious to see their migrations rudely

suppressed, and a repetition enacted of all that their prior establishment cost them. In summer the Hammuk Ovasi and Shukur Ovasi are so infested with flies, and the climate is in places so pestilential, that even the cattle cannot stand it, the settled nomads are dwindling away, newly-born children in some places for the most part only surviving their birth a few hours. Until the Government does something to develop its vast waste lands, which are now in many cases almost ruined by the destruction of all forest, and even scrub—and this must be a work of years—there is abundant pasture in some of the cazas I am writing of to allow of the summer immigration, but this should be supervised, and the nomads made to feel that they only come on sufferance. To supervise or even stop their migration altogether would be very easy; the Essen Déré and Gyuk Sun (Deghirmen Déré) block-house constructed in accordance with my suggestions last year completely commands three routes, that recommended but not constructed in the Jehan gorge would close a third, and that between Marash and Furnus a fourth; the garrison of Féké and one at Elbistan could easily close or regulate the passages through the only two remaining remaining routes. I would suggest one of two plans—either to constitute a new vilayet or a new sandjak. The first plan would be the most thorough, and unless expense or considerations I have overlooked or have no knowledge of present paramount obstacles, is the one I would advocate.

The vilayet to consist of two sandjaks. Kaisarieh to be the head-quarters. Kaisarieh, reputed to be the second oldest city in the world, contains a larger population than either Sivas or Angora. It is a fine city, built in stone, with very spacious bazaars. It is a central and important mart and emporium for this part of Asia Minor. Caravan routes lead thence to Konieh, to Angora, to Yuzgat, to Black Sea, Sivas, Kharput, and Diarbekir, Marash, Aleppo, Adana, and Mersina, the first five passable for wheeled vehicles in dry weather. The old through route to Baghdad and the old Roman thoroughfare, marked by extensive ruins of masonry causeways, have fallen into disuse.

It is a long way from Angora, on which it is dependent, and does not use the same port, Ismidt, but either Samsun or Mersina. It is very central, and has an immediate surrounding of exceptionally fine stone-built villages. It is easy of access.

It is on the borders of a disturbed and lawless district, subject to the influence of the authority of very remote centres, an authority the assumption of which its size and position would render easy. It is as well suited for a centre by topographical position and for commercial considerations as for administrative ones.

Kaisarieh to be the head-quarters, and embrace the districts of Indjé Su, Kara-Hissar, Everek, part of Hadjin, and Azizieh. The other sandjak to comprise Gurun, Darende, Aivalu, and part of Argja Dagh (and possibly Kunghal and Divrik), Elbistan, and Gyuk Sun, and I am inclined to think Zeitoun. Hadjin Caza would probably be thus divided, the southern part could go to Féké and remain under Sis. The Andarin Caza would also be divided, and it much needs it; the portions near Andarin and Ajenlu might come under Kars. Marash Sandjak (Aleppo), now only five cazas, would be much reduced, one-half or all Andarin gone, Elbistan, and possibly Zeitoun. Its size might easily be supplemented by the restitution of two of the Ginour Dagh Cazas, Islahin and Hassa, only removed from its jurisdiction last year; Bageho or Bulanik, taken from it at the same side, would, I opine, be better under Adana (Yarpuz sandjak). From Marash to Islahia and Hassa is a dead plain, the whole Ginour Dagh or Amanus range lies between them and Adana, on which they now depend. A better arrangement still, I think, would be to leave Marash a caza, and remove the sandjak head-quarters to Aintab, a town of 45,000 inhabitants (Marash 18,000 to 20,000). This would relieve the cumbrous head-quarter sandjak of Aleppo, of which Aintab is a caza, one of eleven which besides include Antioch, Biredjik, and Scanderun. Elbistan or Darende would be the best head-quarters for the outlying sandjak according as Zeitoun were included or not.

Alternative project:—

Part of Hadjin, Guak Sun, Elbistan, part of Argja Dagh, Darende, Gurun (? Kungal), and Azizieh might be made into a sandjak. Gurun would probably be the best place for head-quarters. The main objection to this is that unless it be an independent sandjak, whether it be attached to Aleppo, Kharput, Sivas, Angora, or Adana, it would not form, topographically or commercially, a natural dependency of any one of those centres.

If either of the above projects were carried out, one desideratum would be a garrison in one or more places. The fertile neglected corn-land north of Elbistan would probably come under cultivation, but an outlet would be most urgently needed.

Preparations are just being made for a road from Kaisarieh to Mersina; almost equally important is a communication through the Taurus further east; perhaps the easiest pass in the direct Elbistan-Aintab one, but it would be closed in winter. Kaisarieh, viâ Ekrek, Kuru, Tchai Bel, Deghirmen Déré (Gyuk Sun), Dungel, Jehan Kopru to Marash, is not a very difficult line in passing either Anti-Taurus or Taurus. Marash to foot of Beylan Pass is level. At Gyuk Sun there might be a branch viâ Mariantcho and Geben to the Cilician Plain, an easy line except the last 10 miles, the descent from Andarin being very bad, possibly an insuperable objection to the construction of a road; the Elbistan-Marash tracks, one over the Alishehir Dagh and the spurs of the lofty Engusek (9,000 feet), the other past the "Kissuk" or precipitous Jehan gorge, are both lines where road construction would be most costly, and are not, I consider, suitable; the Essen Déré line is little better, and leads over a very high pass (7,000 feet).

Gyuk Sun, Hadjin, Sis, and thence level to Scanderun, Ayas, Adana, and Mersina, is an alternative and perhaps the best line. Between Gyuk Sun and Hadjin there is the very difficult deep cañon of the Seihoun to be crossed; after this there are three tracks, one passing direct to Kozan, another viâ Hadjin, but the steep acclivity just above the town might be avoided, the third viâ Féké—either line would be costly for road construction. I forward with the original of this despatch a sketch map to illustrate it; the sketch is drawn from notes and memory, as the map I possess does not show even approximately the correct configuration of the ground.

With the exceptions of Everek and Indjé Su, I have visited every caza shown on the sketch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 133.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 58.)
Sir, *Therapia, September 22, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Excellency's information, a despatch from Lieutenant Chermside, C.M.G., R.E., in which he states that a messenger carrying his letters was stopped at Amasia, and sent back.

I understand that, in consequence of the irregularities of the Turkish postal service, the messenger was specially sent, with despatches, to catch the mail at Samsun, and that the action of the Amasia authorities has caused a fortnight's delay in the delivery of the despatches at Constantinople.

This is the first instance, that I am aware of, in which a messenger carrying official despatches from a Consul has been stopped and turned back by the local authorities, and I would venture to express a hope that your Excellency will bring the case strongly to the notice of the Porte with a view to the punishment of the official who is responsible for an act of such great discourtesy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 133.

Lieutenant Chermside to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Sivas, September 9, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 4th September; the Defterdar, now acting Vali, informed me that Mehemet Ali was still Refugee Commissioner. I replied to you on the 6th September as follows:—

"Mehemet Ali is not in any Council, but still Refugee Commissioner. I telegraphed this to Ambassador (see No. 12, sent the 5th August). Heavy mail, with charges against Mehemet. Refugee Report and other despatches sent by special messenger has been stopped at Amasia by Government, and returned to me; is there time to send these to you by first post? Bennet here."

Next day the Defterdar informed me that Mehemet Ali had tendered his resignation direct to Constantinople, but that no answer had been received. He further informed me that the new increment of refugees mentioned in my despatch No. 17 was

1,500 families. I may mention that while riding recently a few hours along the Erzinjian road I met no less than 600 arabas on the track I was following, and there were others in sight at a distance to right and left. These people had very large herds, probably their principal possessions. I doubt if forage for these can be found for the winter in the vilayet; probably some such measure as sending some of the men with them to the Cilician plains south of the Taurus should be adopted.

The Vali left last week for Kara-Hissar on a tour of inspection, which is to be of considerable duration. The Defterdar, who is in charge, seems most anxious to do all he can for the refugees, and is sending, or has sent, stringent orders as to their establishment to the Sub-Governors. I mentioned in a private letter the expected arrival of Redif officers to assist in the settlement. I append a translation or précis of a notice in the Sivas newspaper on the subject.

The state of the postal service is disgraceful, the departures and arrivals of mails quite uncertain, and not announced beforehand. The mails are carried on requisitioned animals at a very slow rate, and often miss the steamer they should catch, and are thus delayed nearly a week more.

I would suggest that you make strong representations to Mr. Scudamore on the subject. My messenger was stopped at Amasia and sent back for illegally carrying letters; the postal authorities here inform me that this, to say the least, very discourteous proceeding was quite unjustifiable.

I append a translation of the Turkish letter on the subject I am addressing to the Defterdar. I propose, if I find I am in the right, to make a claim on the local Government for the messenger's expenses, and the cost of the telegram necessitated by the proceeding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 133.

Extract from the "Sivas Journal" of August 17, 1880.

(Translation.)

HIS Excellency the Vali has received a telegram from the Minister of the Interior announcing that his Excellency Ahmed Hamdi Pasha, late Commandant of Janina, has received instructions to leave at once for Anatolia, for the purpose of making inquiries as to whether the refugees, of whom there are such large numbers in this vilayet, have been established or not, and if not to give all the assistance in his power to his Excellency the Vali to insure their speedy settlement; in accordance with which instructions his Excellency Hamdi Pasha has set out for his destination, for the purpose of carrying out the commands of His Majesty the Sultan, expressed to him with his own mouth . . . . We understand that a telegram has been received by his Excellency the Vali announcing that a decision has been arrived at in the Council of Ministers with regard to the employment of certain "Redif" officers in the carrying out of the scheme of establishment of the refugees, giving each man so employed some remuneration for his services; in accordance with which decision instructions have been sent from the War Office to the General in command of the 4th Army Corps, and through him to his Excellency the Vali, to the effect that Majors Ismail, Vehby, Hassan Tahsin, and Houloussi, of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th battalions respectively of the 2nd division of the 2nd Regiment, should be employed on this special service of superintending the settlement of the refugees in the vilayet.

Undoubtedly all the refugees have come to this vilayet, the greater part of whom have been established. In the work of accomplishing a settlement of those who have not yet been established, apart from the rest, our vilayet has taken precedence of all the others. Moreover, we have no hesitation in assuring our readers that we are looking forward to the accomplishment of this great desideratum in the full conviction that the employment of the above-mentioned officers in the task of bringing about a full and complete settlement of the refugees before the winter sets in, and of supplying as soon as possible, and in a befitting manner, the immediate necessaries of these unfortunate people; and more especially that the arrival of his Excellency Ahmed Pasha will have the undoubted effect of insuring and accelerating to a greater degree than at present the efforts that are being made in this cause.

Inclosure 7 in No. 133.

Lieutenant Chermside to the Defterdar of Sivas Vilayet, Acting Vali.

Sivas, September 10, 1880.

Sir,

OWING to the great irregularity of the posts for Constantinople, the week before last I was obliged to dispatch a special messenger to overtake the post at Samsun with my letters, under cover to the English Consular Agent.

This messenger was stopped at Amasia, taken before the Binbashi, and sent back here with the letters.

I am unwilling to bring what appears to me an act of grave discourtesy to the notice of Her Majesty's Ambassador without previously inquiring from your Excellency what explanation of it can be offered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Vice-Consul, Acting Consul-General.*

No. 134.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 399.)

Therapia, September 27, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 238 of the 13th ultimo, I have now the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, the duplicates of two further despatches, and their inclosures, which I have received from the Acting British Consul-General in Syria, relative to the affray which took place at Caiffa on the 27th June last between Moslems and Christians. The latter of these despatches contains Mr. Vice-Consul Schmidt's reply to the inquiries which, as I have already had the honour to state to your Lordship, I had instructed Mr. Dickson to make into the matter.

It is difficult to say whether the occurrence in itself really deserved as much importance as was given to it by Mr. Schmidt, who was evidently greatly alarmed; but the leniency which is exhibited in the execution of the sentences pronounced against the prisoners who have been condemned for their share in the disturbances shows the spirit in which the authorities are disposed to treat questions which may arise between Moslems and Christians.

I have, therefore, addressed the further note to the Porte, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith.

I beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to Mr. Dickson's reference to the recommendation already made by Mr. Eldridge for the appointment of a paid Vice-Consul at Caiffa, and that any person who might be selected for the post should not be a resident of that place. This is, however, part of a much larger question. I believe that the whole subject of the unpaid Consular Agents in Asia requires most careful consideration, as was pointed out to me by your Lordship when I was appointed to my present post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 134.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 57.)

Beyrout, September 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 13th ultimo, inclosing copies of Reports addressed to the Porte by Midhat Pasha on the subject of the disturbance which took place at Caiffa on the evening of the 27th June last, and requesting that I should obtain from Mr. Vice-Consul Schmidt explanations as to how it happened that so important a fact as that of a cavass of the British Vice-Consulate having been arrested was not mentioned by him in his despatch No. 28 of the 28th June; how it could occur that so many cavasses in the pay of the Consulates should unite in an attack premeditated, as it is alleged, against Christians: and on what grounds Mr. Schmidt affirmed that the revolt had been prepared beforehand, and was also general on the part of the Mussulmans.

I have requested Mr. Schmidt to report to me fully on these points, and as soon as he has done so, I shall transmit his Report to your Excellency.

I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's further information,

copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Schmidt, in continuation of his despatch No. 28 of the 28th June last, as well as a copy of a Confidential memorandum drawn up by him on the 12th July.

As the disturbance at Caiffa was so easily quelled, and tranquillity and order were once more restored, I did not think it necessary to trouble your Excellency with Mr. Schmidt's very lengthy Reports on the subject. Moreover, I failed to see that he had established the fact of premeditation, although the stress he laid upon the refusal of the authorities to examine the policeman, Abdu Effendi, mentioned in his despatches Nos. 29 and 32, as well as in his telegrams of the 8th and 10th July, and his memorandum of the 12th July, made me consider that he had reason for believing in premeditation. Hence my statement to your Excellency, that "strong suspicions seem to exist that such was the case."

In a private letter that I have received from Mr. Schmidt, dated the 12th August, he says as follows:—

"Peut-être il vous intéresserait si je vous expose que tous les condamnés de l'événement du 27 Juin à Acre se promènent là hors de la prison et même hors de la ville. Les nuits quelquefois ils viennent à Caiffa pour retourner la matinée à Acre. Faut-il que je continue de vous en rapporter officiellement?"

Again, in a private letter, dated the 19th August, he says:—

"Toutes les vingt-cinq personnes condamnées par le Tribunal d'Appel à Acre se promènent là hors de la prison; personne ne se trouve plus dans la prison; nos Mohamétans paraissent d'être plus fanatiques, parce qu'on n'a pas puni les Chefs, les vrais promoteurs, et les autorités pires qu'avant l'événement."

It would hardly be unreasonable to infer that authorities who can allow the prisoners condemned for an attack on Christians to go free would also be capable of suppressing evidence tending to prove premeditation. I have requested Mr. Vice-Consul Schmidt to report to me officially on the matter of permitting the condemned to be at large.

I was unacquainted with Mr. Schmidt previous to his appointment as British Vice-Consul at Caiffa in August last year, and since then I have only met him two or three times, for a few minutes on each occasion; I have, therefore, scarcely been able to judge of his character so as to say how far he may be an alarmist. The reputation, however, which he enjoys, is one of probity, intelligence, and general capacity.

In the telegram of the [illegible] which his Highness Midhat Pasha sent to the Porte, and of which your Excellency forwards to me a copy, he states that two ships of war were dispatched from Cyprus rapidly, one after another ("coup sur coup"), to Caiffa. This is erroneous. By mere accident it happened that just at the time of the disturbance the "Rapid" was to have arrived to relieve the "Bittern," and on her reaching Beyrout, Captain Pusey, of the "Bittern," as Senior Naval Officer, ordered her to meet him at Caiffa. Moreover, the ship of war stationed on the coast rarely in fine weather remains more than a week at a time at one port, and it would not have been such an unusual event for it to visit Caiffa.

Midhat Pasha likewise declares in his Report of the [illegible] that the French also were obliged to give importance to the affair, and therefore hastily summoned a French ship of war from the Piræus. This statement is not in accordance with facts, and the insinuation of his Highness respecting their political object is malicious. My French colleague, M. Sienkiewiez, was guided by no other motive than that of protecting French interests, and if he had had a ship of war at his disposal, when he first heard of the disturbance, he would have dispatched it to Caiffa at once. The "Renard" arrived at Beyrout on the 1st July, having come to take the place of the "Bouvet," and did not proceed to Caiffa until Saturday, the 3rd July, when she conveyed thither the Chancellier of the French Consulate, who went to make an inquiry into the incident. His Highness Midhat Pasha took the opportunity of begging for a passage for the Mektoubdji Beha Bey.

On the receipt of Mr. Vice-Consul Schmidt's telegram of the 28th June, of which I have also the honour to inclose a copy, I felt, considering its alarming nature, and that there are about 800 British subjects and British-protected subjects within the district of Caiffa, that I had no option but to send there a ship of war. Had I not done so, and had subsequent events turned out as Mr. Schmidt forebodèd ("craignons mal plus fort"), I should have held myself responsible for any injury that might have resulted to British interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 134.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

(Télégraphique.) *Acre, le 8 Juillet*, 1880, 12·15 *soir*.

POLICEMAN ABDU EFFENDI manqua ses devoirs; avoua connaître disposition hostilités Musulmans cinq jours avant événement; malgré nos insistances fait toujours fonctions police; on refuse l'interroger au Tribunal en présence son Chef.

Inclosure 3 in No. 134.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

(No. 29.)

M. le Gérant, *Caiffa, le 8 Juillet*, 1880.

LE Capitaine Mr. Pusey, de la frégate Anglaise "Bittern," à son retour à Beyrouth, vous aura sans doute communiqué tout ce qui a été à sa connaissance, soit de l'état des pauvres Chrétiens blessés, soit de ce qui lui a été dit par Son Eminence l'Evêque Grec Catholique d'Acre et dépendances, et par mes collègues les Représentants des Puissances Européennes à Acre et Caiffa, ainsi que ce qu'il a observé lui-même sur l'agir de l'autorité de Caiffa au sujet de l'événement du 27 Juin exposé par mon dernier Rapport, No. 28, et pour cela je me limite à vous exposer, M. le Gérant, ce qui suit:—

Le substitut du Procureur-Général qui a montré jusqu'à présent assez de vigilance dans le procès pour ne point donner à la question l'importance qu'elle a, évita la semaine dernière d'interroger les moteurs de l'agression, et malgré nos insistances on n'a pu décider cela que Dimanche dernier, après l'arrivée des délégués envoyés de la part du vilayet et du Consulat-Général de France en Syrie, et lorsqu'on a su qu'on ne pouvait faire à moins que de les interroger.

Les interrogations régulières suivies ont jusqu'à present mis à jour trente-cinq des coupables et dont la culpabilité a été constatée, composés de douze cavas des Consulats, entre autres un des nôtres, et de vingt-trois Ottomans, parmi lesquels il y a les trois Notables mentionnés par mon Rapport du 28 Juin.

Pour manque d'emplacement suffisant ici, trente personnes des coupables ont été envoyées en deux expéditions à Acre et cinq sont restées ici avec sept personnes dont la culpabilité n'est pas encore constatée. Des trente envoyés à Acre douze ont été ramenées hier ici pour certaines formalités à remplir et qui devront être renvoyées de nouveau avec les autres à Acre.

Mustafa Zia Effendi, Mutessarif d'Acre, qui n'a paru ici que Lundi dernier, à son arrivée, à cherché à donner à la question une autre phase en introduisant dans l'interrogatoire des Chrétiens innocents et montrer l'affaire pour simple baronille, avec des coupables des deux côtés, mais les interrogatoires réguliers ne lui ont point permis cela, et ainsi il a dû confesser, lui aussi, que les Musulmans étaient les agresseurs et que les Chrétiens n'avaient sur eux ni armes ni bâtons, et qu'ils n'ont pas pu même se défendre, soutenant pourtant, tant lui que le Procureur-Général et l'autorité de Caiffa, que l'événement n'a point été prémédité.

Un des zaptiés qui avait emprisonné sous ordres de ses Chefs un des Chrétiens grièvement blessés et lorsqu'il était venu pour se plaindre au Chef, a été jugé et mis en prison, mais le policeman Abdou Effendi, qui a manqué entièrement à ses devoirs et qui est soupçonné de complicité, n'a point encore subi un interrogatoire régulier, et ce qui est plus étonnant encore, c'est de le voir toujours faire son devoir de police. Pourtant, comme on a déposé hier contre lui d'avoir avoué devant trois personnes qu'il avait connaissance des dispositions hostiles des Musulmans cinq jours avant l'événement, nous espérons qu'il sera suspendu de ses fonctions, et après avoir subi un interrogatoire sérieux il sera condamné, et qu'alors ils seront convaincus de la préméditation ceux qui croient que l'affaire est accidentelle.

Nous aimons à croire que le Tribunal fera subir à chacun des coupables la peine qu'il a méritée; dans tous les cas, après la clôture du procès-verbal, et après que le jugement soit rendu, je demanderai à l'autorité une note exacte des noms, des crimes, et des peines des coupables, et je vous la soumettra avec les observations nécessaires.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) Dr. J. SCHMIDT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 134.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

Caiffa, le 10 *Juillet*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

TRIBUNAL Caiffa jugea correctionnellement affaire criminelle du 27 Juin, appliqua corrections non-proportionnées aux crimes constatés; promoteurs condamnés d'un à trois mois; policeman éloigné sans interrogatoire demandé; probablement j'arriverai par premier Autrichien.

Inclosure 5 in No. 134.

Memorandum.

(Confidentiel.)

LE Mutessarif d'Acre continue ses adversités pour les Chrétiens, et malgré qu'il lui fût impossible d'inculper quelques-uns pour montrer que l'événement du 27 Juin est une rixe et non une agression, il a mal dépeint le substitut du Procureur-Général aux yeux de Son Altesse Midhat Pacha, ce qui fait que depuis le retour de Beha Bey, le Procureur-Général reçoit de continuelles reproches du Vali, qui s'étonne de ce qu'il n'y a pas quelques Chrétiens parmi les coupables. On m'assure que bientôt le Mutessarif reviendra à Caiffa pour faire lui-même un interrogatoire aux Chrétiens, et tâcher d'embrouiller quelques-uns (on dit que c'est le Gouverneur-Général qui lui donne cette faculté), dans l'idée de montrer que les coupables sont des deux côtés, et que l'affaire est une simple dispute, et si cela sera réalisé, les peines qu'on s'est données jusqu'à present sont entièrement perdues, et au lieu d'être utiles aux Chrétiens, elles leur seront très-nuisibles.

Les coupables à qui ont été ramenés en dernier lieu à Acre ont eu tous les égards possibles. A Acre même ils ont été gardés dans des chambres très-commodes, et en relations très-libres avec leurs corcligionnaires, qui n'ont point manqué de leur présenter tout ce qui pouvait leur être agréable; et pour leurs prisons on leur a destiné des chambres bien situées à la caserne militaire, où ils seront mieux que chez eux. Tout cela fut par la bonne volonté du Mutessarif et du Mufti d'Acre. Le policeman Obdon Effendi, qui a avoué d'avoir eu connaissance de l'agression cinq jours avant qu'elle n'eu lieu, n'a pas été interrogé devant le Tribunal, et (malgré nos instances) il a été envoyé de Caiffa sans subir l'intérrogatoire demandé, lorsque son interrogatoire peut bien mettre à jour la préméditation jusqu'à présent contestée par l'autorité.

D'après ce qui m'a été rapporté, les moteurs mentionnés par mon Rapport ont été condamnés d'un à trois mois, c'est-à-dire, Cheikh Saïd Katib, deux mois; Kalil Mujrabi, trois mois; et Mohamed Kaké, un mois; malgré qu'il a été constaté qu'ils ont excité et ordonné à leur jeunesse de faire ce qui fut fait; et les autres ont été condamnés de trois à vingt-quatre mois, suivant la volonté du Tribunal, et non suivant la gravité du crime; et le Tribunal les a tous reconnus non criminels.

Pour mieux pouvoir vous observer l'illégalité de ces condamnations, j'ai demandé à l'autorité du Caiffa une note détaillée ou l'extrait de la sentence rendue; et jusqu'à mon départ je n'ai point pu l'avoir à cause que le Caïmacam me renvoyait sur le Tribunal, disant que j'avais à lui demander directement, et sur cela je lui ai répondu que c'est à lui seul que j'avais à m'adresser, et que c'est par son canal que j'entends avoir ce que je demande; et à cette dernière dépêche je n'ai pas eu encore la réponse.

Bref, si la chose ne sera point tenue avec la même énergie qu'au commencement pour empêcher le Mutessarif d'accomplir son but, et faire donner aux coupables les peines méritées suivant la gravité de leurs crimes, et si l'on n'interroge point le policeman pour éclairer la préméditation par lui avouée, les Turcs seront encouragés pour faire plus tard des choses pires, et peut-être les Chrétiens de Caiffa feront leur possible pour se venger directement de leurs agresseurs, et l'effet en général aux yeux des Turcs de nos environs sera bien contraire à celui qu'on désire obtenir.

La protection de Sélim Effendi Melki, Procureur-Général, contre l'opinion de partialité qu'on veut lui attribuer, est indispensable pour faire voir à tous les employés Chrétiens que celui qui fait son devoir sans égard à personne sera protégé contre toute calomnie par les Consulats Généraux.

(Signé) Dr. J. SCHMIDT,
Vice-Consul d'Angleterre à Caiffa.

Caiffa, le 12 *Juillet*, 1880.

Inclosure 6 in No. 134.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

(No. 32. Confidentiel.)

Caiffa, le 15 *Juillet*, 1880.

M. le Gérant,

PAR mes précédents Rapports No. 28 et No. 29 en date du 28 Juin et 8 Juillet, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous exposer tout ce qui a eu lieu au sujet de l'agression des Turcs de Caiffa à l'événement du 27 Juin passé, et par mes dépêches télégraphiques en date du 8 et 10 Juillet je n'ai point manqué de vous exposer aussi l'agir de l'autorité locale soit au regard des condamnés soit à celui du policeman Abdu Effendi, et comme je remarque bien que l'autorité cherche à donner à l'affaire le moins d'importance possible, je crois devoir vous exposer mes remarques suivantes.

Mustafa Zia Effendi, Mutessarif d'Acre, d'accord avec Ali Effendi Miri, Mufti d'Acre, cherchent par tous les moyens possibles à montrer à qui de droit que Sélim Effendi Melki, substitut Procureur-Général, a été partial dans les interrogatories et que pour cela il n'y pas eu des Chrétiens condamnés, mais comme la procédure a été légalement et régulièrement tenue et en présence du Mutessarif d'Acre, du Secrétaire du vilayet, du Caïmacam de Caiffa, du Chancelier du Consulat-Général de France en Syrie, et des divers Représentants des Puissances Etrangères à Acre et Caiffa, j'espère qu'ils jugeront que l'impartialité de Sélim Effendi Milky sera constatée et que le fanatisme de Ali Effendi Miri bien connu déjà, et qui a été toujours très-hostile aux Chrétiens, ne triomphera point contre cet employé Chrétien.

L'Inspecteur de Justice arrivé hier par le vapeur Autrichien, après avoir pris le dossier, s'est rendu hier la nuit même à Acre en compagnie de Ali Effendi Miri et du Juge d'Acre qui étaient venus à sa rencontre avec dessein de revoir les procès au Tribunal d'Acre, sous prétexte de l'appel de la part des Musulmans condamnés, et d'après les dispositions déjà bien connues on doit s'attendre à des faits favorables pour les Turcs et contraires aux innocents Chrétiens de Caiffa.

Je vais m'occuper à connaître tout ce qui sera fait là-bas et à temps je ne manquerai pas de vous exposer, M. le Gérant, tout ce qui sera en ma connaissance.

Wassif Effendi Cleian, Directeur Politique en Syrie, arrivé hier aussi par l'Autrichien ici à Caiffa, ce matin fait réunir quelques Notables des Turcs et des Chrétiens de la ville, et il est en séance secrète avec les Tribunaux. Jusqu'à présent je n'ai pas pu connaître au fond le but de cet agir, mais je pense que c'est pour faire constater la chose pour rixe et non agression lorsqu'elle est déjà bien constatée comme agression par la sentence rendue par le Tribunal de Caiffa et par l'aveu du policeman Abdu Effendi, qui n'a pas été interrogé et qui est toujours au service à Acre. Je ne manquerai point de bien m'éclaircir sur ce qui sera fait par ce délégué et de vous l'exposer à temps.

Comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous l'exposer, l'autorité locale cherche à donner à l'événement une autre phase et on espère réussir en cela avec les procès d'appel, ce qui est à craindre, parce que non-seulement nous serons démentis d'une vérité déjà bien constatée, mais encore les Turcs, assez acharnés déjà contre les Chrétiens, seront indomptables, et l'exemple sera bien mauvais pour l'avenir.

Comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous le promettre, je n'ai point manqué de demander au Caïmacamié de Caiffa une note détaillée des noms, professions, crimes, et condamnations des coupables ou l'extrait de la sentence donnée contre eux s'agissant dans la masse d'un de mes cavasses condamnés, ce qui m'a été refusé, avec observation que je n'avais nul droit à cette réclamation, et qu'une fois que la sentence communiquée au Procureur-Général, de m'adresser à lui pour en demander l'extrait; pour cela je vais m'adresser au Mutesarrifié d'Acre avec la même demande, et si jamais je serais encore refusé je vous exposerai ce qui sera. En attendant, comme j'ai pu parvenir à avoir indirectement une note assez claire, je me hâte de vous la soumettre ci-joint pour que vous ayez une idée de la culpabilité et du châtiment de chacun, en attendant la copie authentique que j'espère avoir et que je vous transmettrai dès qu'elle sera en mon pouvoir.

De la liste susmentionnée vous relèverez, M. le Gérant, qu'il n'y a pas eu un Chrétien de condamné, et cela parce qu'il a été constaté que les Chrétiens n'avaient ni armes ni bâtons et qu'ils ne s'étaient point même défendus; pour cela les deux Turcs dont j'avais parlé par mon premier Rapport No. 28, et qui prétendaient avoir été blessés par des Chrétiens, ont été démentis, et on a relevé que les petites blessures qu'ils avaient provenaient de leurs compagnons, qui frappaient à l'obscurité après avoir cassé les lanternes de la rue.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) Dr. J. SCHMIDT.

Liste des Musulmans trouvés à l'Événement du 27 Juin Jugés et Condamnés par le Tribunal de Première Instance de Caïffa.

No.	Noms et Prénoms.	Profession.	Culpabilité constatée.	Article de la Loi.	Condamnation en Mois.	Observations.
1	Amin Ibn Mahmudi	Cavas Espagnol	Avoir blessé un à coup de sabre	178	24	
2	Mohammed El Hadj Fassin	Marchand Ottoman	Idem	178	24	
3	Mohammed Hassan Khatib	" "	Idem	178	24	
4	Mahmoud Sleka	Vagabond	Avoir porté épée et frappé	178	24	
5	Sélim, le Noir	Cavas Hollandais	Idem porté épée, forts blessures	178	24	
6	Mohammed Nimelare	Propriétaire Ottoman	Idem porté épée, armé de pistolets, grave blessure	178	24	
7	Ahmed Zwaied	Vagabond	Idem commencé à frapper un Chrétien	178	18	Les 42 condamnés ont été condamnés en outre pour frais et dommages des blessés durant l'époque qu'ils garderont le lit avec les frais des gardes-malades.
8	Mohammed Abu Sélim	Marin	Idem frappé de sabre avec un bâton	178	18	
9	Mustafa Abdalla Akra	Cavas Italien	Idem	178	12	
10	Abd Allah Mrad	Français	Idem, et avoir porté épée, armé de pistolets	178	12	
11	Hassan Saïdi	" "	Avoir porté épée, armé de pistolets	178	12	
12	Hamoud Hassan	Marchand Ottoman	Idem frappé plusieurs par bâton	178	12	
13	Assad el Natour	Cavas Espagnol	Idem frappé plusieurs par épée et bâton	178	12	
14	Ahmed Skouk	Américain	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	12	
15	Ahmed Dick	Cultivateur Ottoman	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	12	
16	Mahmoud E. Zabidane	Marchand "	Idem frappé par bâton	178	12	
17	Mohammed Saïdi	Cavas Allemand	Idem battu par épée	178	12	
18	Abderrahim Hamadé	" "	Idem	178	12	
19	Ibrahim Hadj Ibrahim	Marchand Ottoman	Avoir blessé un spectateur à coup de sabre	178	12	
20	Selim Dieb	Cavas Espagnol	Idem frappé plusieurs par épée et bâton	178	12	
21	Mustafa el Hadj Khalil	Autrichien	Idem frappé plusieurs par épée et bâton	178	12	
22	Foreis Hadj Fassin	Marchand Ottoman	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
23	Said E. Dirani Sakes	Cribleur Ottoman	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
24	Abd Farrah	Vagabond "	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
25	Mohammed Khadhra	Boulanger "	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
26	Mohammed Abu Laba	Cavas Anglais	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
27	Mohammed Ladiffe	Barbier Ottoman	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
28	Mustafa El Hadj Mahmoud	Vagabond "	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
29	Abd El Kele Saïd	Cavas Américain	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
30	Khalil Challebi	Hadjanger Ottoman	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
31	Sefi El Khatib	Négociant "	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
32	Khalil Magrabi	" "	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
33	Sahab Sanara	" "	Idem frappé par bâton et grièvement blessé	178	6	
34	Mohamed Sakr	Algérien Français	Avoir encouragé	178	6	
35	Saïed Cadane	Marchand Ottoman	Idem	178	6	
36	Abu El Yahid Khatib	Marin "	Avoir chanté avec les autres des chants révolutionnaires	178	6	
37	Hassan Nassar	Marchand "	Idem	178	6	
38	Abd El Faïe Sahir	Cavas Russe	Avoir donné faux jurement	178	6	
39	Hassan Cheikh Hussein	" "	Idem	178	6	
40–45	Six personnes	Ottomanes	Condamnés en contumace à l'expression portant bâton devant le Tribunal	178	6	Comme promoteurs qui ont, durant l'agression, leur peine n'est point analogue.
46	Mohammed Abu Sélim	Ottoman	Avoir blessé à coup de sabre et avoir porté une arme à feu	178	24	Ce cavass n'a pas été encore consigné pour subir sa peine. Condamnés en contumace.
47	Amin Ibn Mohammedi	Cavas Espagnol	Avoir blessé à coup de sabre et sans avoir des armes à feu	178	24	
48	Saad E Diene Saïes	Ottoman	Avoir frappé par pierres et bâtons	178	6	
49	Abd el Kadr Saïes	"	Avoir porté épée	178	6	
50	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
51	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
52	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
53	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
54	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
55	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
56	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
57	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
58	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
59	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
60	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
61	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
62	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
63	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
64	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
65	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
66	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
67	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
68	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
69	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
70	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
71	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
72	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
73	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
74	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
75	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
76	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
77	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
78	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
79	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
80	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
81	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
82	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
83	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
84	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
85	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
86	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
87	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
88	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
89	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
90	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
91	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
92	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
93	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
94	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
95	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
96	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
97	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
98	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
99	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	
100	Mustafa Abdallah Akra	Cavas Italien	Avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton	178	24	

Inclosure 7 in No. 134.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

(No. 35.)

Caiffa, le 26 Juillet, 1880.

M. le Gérant,

PAR mon dernier Rapport en date du 15 courant, sub No. 32, je vous ai promis de vous rapporter les démarches qui seront faites soit par l'Inspecteur de Justice à Acre soit par le Directeur Politique resté ici, et pour cela je me fais un devoir de vous exposer ce qui suit:

A l'arrivée de l'Inspecteur à Acre une requête d'appel fut présentée par les Musulmans condamnés et le Tribunal Correctionnel a cassé immédiatement la sentence de Caiffa et dans quarante-huit heures a revu le jugement, a interrogé les coupables, et a décrété les licenciements de quatorze coupables, entre autres les trois promoteurs déjà connus, et la réduction des peines des autres condamnés à des corrections presqu'insignifiantes pour les Ottomans non-cavass, et à peu de moins pour les cavass, et cela sous la surveillance de l'Inspecteur, qui a été toujours présent, même au moment où le Tribunal délibérait sur les condamnations à donner, et de là on relève bien que tout ce qui a été fait a été dicté par lui. Ci-joint note des personnes licenciées et condamnées et des peines appliquées aux dernières.

En confrontant la présente note avec la précédente vous observerez, M. le Gérant, que Mohammed Abu Sélim, Ottoman, inculpé d'avoir gravement blessé à coup de sabre, et avoir porté une arme à feu, a été condamné à Caiffa pour vingt-quatre mois, et que par le Tribunal d'Acre n'a été condamné que pour trois mois seulement, tandis que Amin Mohammedi, cavass Espagnol, inculpé d'avoir blessé à coup de sabre et sans avoir des armes à feu, condamné à Caiffa pour vingt-quatre mois, a été condamné à Acre à douze mois, et cela parce que ce dernier jouit d'une protection Européenne, et que aussi Saad E Diene Saies, Ottoman, inculpé d'avoir frappé par pierres et bâtons, et condamné à Caiffa six mois, n'a été condamné à Acre qu'à quinze jours seulement, tandis que son frère Abd el Kadr Saies, inculpé d'avoir porté épée, et d'avoir nié sa présence sans constater d'avoir battu, condamné à Caiffa à trois mois, a été condamné à Acre à un mois, parce que lui aussi est cavass Consulaire. Mustafa Abdallah Akra, inculpé d'avoir frappé de sabre et d'avoir eu un bâton, condamné à Caiffa pour vingt-quatre mois, n'a été condamné à Acre que pour deux mois; tandis que Mohammed Abu Taha, cavass de cet Office, inculpé d'avoir porté épée, et d'avoir crié "Mort aux Chrétiens!" sans constater avoir frappé, condamné à Caiffa pour six mois, a été condamné à Acre pour un mois, et cela parce qu'il était cavass, &c. Et vous relèverez bien avec quel esprit le jugement a été prononcé à Acre. En outre, j'ai à vous exposer, M. le Gérant, que le jugement rendu à Acre est vicieux pour plusieurs raisons, entre autres qu'il est prononcé par un Tribunal incomplet ayant parmi les quatre membres un criminellement condamné et qui est Hadj Abdullah E Saadi.

Cette attitude, tenue par l'Inspecteur et l'autorité d'Acre, a fait un bien mauvais effet, parce que d'un côté elle encourage les Musulmans qui se voient si protégés, et elle décourage les Chrétiens qui voient cette partialité commise et en même temps elle fait du tort au nom Européen parce que les cavass, quoique Musulmans, mais jouissant d'une protection Européenne, ont été plus punis que les autres.

Wassif Effendi Chéïan, Directeur Politique, après avoir passé trois jours ici s'est rendu à Acre Dimanche matin, et lorsque tout était fini là-bas, et ainsi Lundi soir il est retourné ici, et l'Inspecteur est parti pour Damas par Tarchiha, et Mercredi il est parti pour Nazareth, d'où il a été de retour Vendredi soir.

Pendant son premier séjour à Caiffa, Wassif Effendi a visité l'Evêque Grec Catholique et il lui a manifesté que son Altesse Midhat Pacha déteste toute intervention Européenne dans les affaires Ottomanes, voulant dire par-là que l'intervention des Consuls dans l'événement de Caiffa a déplu à son Altesse, et il lui a remis son adresse, l'engageant de lui écrire directement toutes les fois qu'il aurait l'occasion de se plaindre de quelque chose. En outre, il a montré que la condamnation de quarante-cinq Musulmans était un peu forte sans pourtant nier que la condamnation des moteurs à un et trois mois n'était point du tout suffisante; et en résumé on n'a pu remarquer aucun agir sérieux tenu par lui ouvertement, ce qui fait supposer qu'il se reposait assez sur son compagnon de voyage Djemal Eddin Effendi, Inspecteur.

A la suite du jugement rendu à Acre tout le monde s'attendait à le voir appelé par le substitut du Procureur-Général à la Cour Suprême de Constantinople, mais il semble que ce dernier, Sélim Effendi Melki, a été tellement intimidé qu'il n'a plus osé faire son devoir, et ainsi le jugement reste sans opposition ni appel; et si les Consulats

Généraux de Beyrout ne s'y intéressent point en donnant part au vilayet pour faire faire les pas nécessaires par le Procureur-Général à Damas, le tout s'étouffera sur les lieux.

Il semble que les Musulmans même ont bien vu que les manèges d'Acre peuvent être cassés et pour arriver à une fin certaine Hadj Ali Effendi Mire, Mufti d'Acre, s'est fait accompagner par Said Eddin Effendi Ramadan, Président du Tribunal de Commerce; Nassar Effendi Katron, membre du dit Tribunal; et le sieur Gibran Saad, un des Notables des Grecs Catholiques d'Acre et ils seront rendus à Caiffa où, en compagnie de plusieurs des Notables Turcs de Caiffa, ont visité l'Evêque Grec Catholique et le sieur Khalil Gidda, un des Notables gravement blessés, avec démonstrations de regret de ce qui a eu lieu et dans un but de réconciliation; mais l'Evêque et les Chrétiens, gravement offensés des démarches tenus à Acre, surtout envers les promoteurs qui faisaient part des visiteurs, les reçurent poliment sans pourtant consentir à visiter les maisons des agresseurs, comme ils avaient demandé, considérant toujours l'affaire en pouvoir des qui de droit, qui seuls ont la faculté d'accepter ou d'annuler ce qui fut fait à Acre, ce qui fait que leurs visites ont été plutôt un aveu du fort qu'une mesure de réconciliation.

M. Brüning, Consul Allemand à Beyrouth, arrivé ici par dernier Autrichien par mission extraordinaire pour s'informer de l'événement de Caiffa et renseigner à l'Ambassade à Constantinople, a été continuellement avec Wassif Effendi, Directeur Politique, soit ici soit à Acre, soit à Nazareth, et il semble qu'il a été tellement convaincu, même avant son arrivée ici, que l'événement n'était rien et qu'il avait été exagéré, qu'il n'a point eu nécessaire prendre renseignements de personne, même des colonistes Allemands, et ainsi on peut s'imaginer quel renseignement doit avoir donné à l'Ambassade, démarches qui ont été critiquées non-seulement par les colonistes, mais même par tous ceux qui en ont eu connaissance, et en plus il a ordonné au Vice-Consul Allemand de Caiffa, qui était avec lui à Acre, de demander ses cavass au Gouvernement et de les renvoyer chez eux, ce qui fut fait; mais arrivé à la porte d'Acre, par suite des observations du Mutessarif, le Vice-Consul a dû retourner les cavass chez lui à Acre, et après une discussion entre les deux Consuls et le Directeur Politique, M. Brüning a dû ordonner de remettre de nouveau les cavass à l'autorité locale pour être en prison avec les autres condamnés; ce cas a été regretté non par les Allemands seuls mais par tous les Européens en général, qui croient que M. Brüning a fait par-là un pas irréfléchi.

Pour soutenir ici la dignité Européenne et pour éviter des événements plus graves à l'avenir, il serait indispensable d'observer à qui de droit l'attitude de l'autorité d'Acre pour revenir sur le jugement rendu par le Tribunal d'Appel, punir sévèrement les coupables et avant tout, les promoteurs, et que les cavass pour leur protection ne soient point plus condamnés que les Ottomans plus coupables qu'eux.

Je suis, &c.

(Signé) Dr. J. SCHMIDT.

Liste des Musulmans Compromis dans l'Événement de Caiffa Condamnés ou Licenciés du Tribunal d'Appel d'Acre.

No.	Noms et Prénoms.	Profession.	Condamnation à Caiffa	Confirmation à Acre.
1	Amin Mohammedi	Cavass Egyptien	24 mois ..	12 mois.
2	Mahmoud el Hadj Jassin	Maréchal Ottoman ..	24 „ ..	3 „
3	Mohammed Hassan Khalil ..	„ „ ..	24 „ ..	6 „
4	Mahmoud Sléha	„ „ ..	24 „ ..	4 „
5	Khér, le Noir	Vagabond „ ..	24 „ ..	3 „
6	Mohammed Kacheu	Cavass Hollandais	24 „ ..	6 „
7	Ahmed Zwad	Propriétaire Ottoman ..	24 „ ..	6 „
8	Mohammed Abu Sélim	Vagabond „ ..	24 „ ..	3 „
9	Mustafa Abdulla Aira	Marin „ ..	24 „ ..	2 „
10	Abid Abu Murad	Cavass Italien	18 „ ..	12 „
11	Hassan Sabdi	„ Français	18 „ ..	4 „
12	Hamoud Hassan	„ „	12 „ ..	1 „
13	Assad el Natour	Maréchand Ottoman ..	12 „ ..	3 „
14	Ahmed Skérek	Cavass Espagnol	12 „ ..	3 „
15	Ahmed Duck	„ Américain	12 „ ..	6 „
16	Mahmoud E Zahal me ..	Cribleur Ottoman	12 „ ..	1 „
17	Mohammed Sabik	Marchand „	6 „ ..	1 „
18	Abdurachim Hamoté	Cavass Allemand	6 „ ..	1 „
19	Ibrahim Hadj Ibrahim	„ „	6 „ ..	4 „
20	Selim Dich	„ Autrichien	6 „ ..	6 „
21	Mustafa el Hadj Khalil	Marchand Ottoman ..	4 „ ..	Licencié.
22	Farres Hadj Jassin	„ „ ..	6 „ ..	„
23	Said E Dirne Saïes	Vagabond „ ..	6 „ ..	15 jours.
24	El Abid Fassah	Boucher „	6 „ ..	Licencié.
25	Mohammed Kehave	Banlanger „	6 „ ..	1 mois.
26	Mohammed Abu Taha	Cavass Anglais	6 „ ..	1 „
27	Mohammed Tofich	Barbier Ottoman	6 „ ..	Licencié.
28	Mustafa el Hadj Mahmoud ..	Vagabond Ottoman ..	4 „ ..	„
29	Abd el Kadr Séïen	Cavass Américain	3 „ ..	1 mois.
30	Rachid Chelebi	Boulanger Ottoman ..	3 „ ..	Licencié.
31	Said el Khatib	Négociant „ ..	3 „ ..	„
32	Khalil Mograbi	„ „ ..	3 „ ..	„
33	Sélah Sémane	Marchand „ ..	2 „ ..	„
34	Mohammed Kaké	Négociant „ ..	1 „ ..	„
35	Ahmed Ghélane	Algérien Français ..	1 „ ..	„
36	Abd el Vahel Khatib	Marchand Ottoman ..	1 „ ..	„
37	Hassan Benaw	Marin „ ..	1 „ ..	„
38	Abd el Fatah Sébir	Maréchand „ ..	1 „ ..	„
39	Hussein Chekir Hussein	Cavass Russe	2 „ ..	..

Inclosure 6 in No. 134.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

(No. 39.) *Caiffa, le 29 Juillet*, 1880.

M. le Gérant,

J'AI reçu la dépêche que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire en date du 13 courant, sous No. 15, relativement au cavass de cet Office, Mohammed Abu Taha, et comme je viens de recevoir du Mutessarifié d'Acre la communication officielle de la première et dernière condamnation du dit cavass et qui sont conformes aux deux notes que je vous ai déjà soumises, je crois, vu l'illégalité mise dans la procédure d'appel et la partialité que ce Tribunal a montrée dans ce Jugement, devoir attendre vos nouvelles instructions sur l'attitude à suivre au sujet de ce cavass compromis.

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous exposer des faits assez importants et qui constatent de plus la partialité de Djemal Eddin Effendi, Inspecteur de Justice, et de l'autorité locale, et de leurs mauvaises dispositions pour les innocents Chrétiens de Caiffa, et qui sont:

L'Inspecteur avant son départ a communiqué au substitut du Procureur-Général une pétition adressée par huit Turcs des condamnés, au Tribunal d'Appel d'Acre, contre plusieurs Chrétiens de Caiffa, avec ordre d'interroger les accusés et de les faire condamner par le Tribunal de Première Instance de Caiffa et de leur faire subir des fortes punitions, et en conformité de ces ordres Sélim Effendi Melki s'est rendu dernièrement ici et il a invité le Tribunal de Caiffa à exécuter les ordres de l'Inspecteur; mais comme ce Tribunal avait déjà vérifié ces plaintes pendant les premières enquêtes et il avait reconnu la fausseté de l'attaque et l'inculpabilité des accusés, a refusé par Décret l'exécution de ces demandes et qu'un tel Jugement n'était plus de sa compétence, et ainsi le Procureur-Général est retourné avec ces pièces à Acre. A

présent que feront-ils à Acre? appelleront-ils les Chrétiens accusés par devant le Tribunal d'Appel? ou laisseront-ils tomber cette fausse attaque? On n'en sait rien encore, et de ce qui sera fait à ce sujet je ne manquerai pas, M. le Gérant, de vous l'exposer.

Les six coupables Turcs jugés en contumace et condamnés suivant les preuves présentées sont de retour à Caiffa, où ils se promènent librement sans qu'on pense à les arrêter et à leur faire subir les corrections décrétées.

On m'assure en outre qu'à Acre on est disposé de faire appeler à la Cour Suprême par seize personnes des Mussulmans des plus condamnés et cela pour avoir une prétexte pour les mettre en liberté jusqu'à l'arrivée de la décision de la dite Cour, et si jamais ce dessein sera mis en exécution tous les condamnés seront mis en liberté, c'est-à-dire une partie licenciée, une partie négligée, une partie pour avoir fini sa petite condamnation, et le reste à se promener en attendant la décision de la Cassation.

De tout ce que je vous ai exposé par mes précédents Rapports et de ce que je viens de vous exposer ci-haut, nos Musulmans d'Acre et de ses environs se montrent fiers de la protection des autorités en chef et dédaignent toute protection Consulaire faite dans cet accident désolant, tandis qu'au contraire nos Chrétiens se trouvent assez avilis et craignent des cas plus fâcheux à l'avenir.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) DR. J. SCHMIDT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 134.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

(Télégraphique.) *Caiffa, le 28 Juin*, 1880, 11·30 *matin*.

NUIT passée Musulmans Caiffa armés tombèrent sur Chrétiens; révolte était préparée et presque générale de la part des Musulmans; huit personnes Chrétiennes gravement blessées; autorité locale faible, craignons mal plus fort.

Inclosure 10 in No. 134.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 58.) *Aleih, September* 9, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 57 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a Report which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Schmidt in reply to the explanations I requested him to furnish in accordance with your Excellency's instructions contained in your despatch of the 13th ultimo.

I leave Mr. Schmidt's remarks in support of his statement, that there was premeditation on the part of the Mussulmans to your Excellency's appreciation.

Mr. Vice-Consul Schmidt, I would respectfully venture to point out, may have been induced, through unnecessary alarm, to exaggerate the incident which took place on the 27th June at Caiffa; but, on the other hand, the proceedings of the authorities, as reported by him, especially in connection with the manner in which the prisoners have been allowed to go at large, would seem to be deserving of censure.

I would take this opportunity of earnestly drawing your Excellency's attention to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's despatch No. 1 of the 3rd January, 1878, and to previous correspondence, in which he strongly advocates the appointment of a paid Vice-Consul at Caiffa. Mr. Eldridge gives in detail, in these Reports, his reasons for the re-establishment of the post, and for the nomination of a person other than a resident at Caiffa. I believe, however, that, as unpaid Vice-Consul, Mr. Schmidt was the most eligible person that could be found at Caiffa for the appointment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure 11 in No. 134.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

(No. 45.)

M. le Gérant, *Caiffa, le 6 Septembre*, 1880.

CONFORMÉMENT aux ordres que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me communiquer par votre dépêche No. 19, en date du 31 Août passé, je me fais un devoir, tout en vous confirmant mes précédents Rapports Nos. 28, 29, 32, 35, et 39, de vous exposer les détails suivants:

Si mon Rapport du 28 Juin n'a point porté le nom de notre cavass c'est parce que jusqu'alors je n'avais aucune connaissance certaine des cavass trouvés à l'événement et réellement compromis, et que je n'avais pas eu le temps matériel de bien m'en assurer, l'ayant fait dans la matinée du 28, le lendemain de l'événement qui avait eu lieu dans la soirée du 27, ce que, du reste, je n'ai pas manqué de faire aussitôt que j'en ai été sûr, comme le constate mon Rapport No. 29.

Les cavass au service des divers Consulats de Caiffa sont honoraires et, par conséquent, ils sont la plupart du temps à leurs affaires particulières et chez eux, et ils ne sont au service que lorsqu'ils sont appelés par leurs Chefs qui les occupent bien peu de temps et souvent peu d'heures par semaine; étant donc si libres ils sont presque toujours parmi leurs parents et leurs coreligionnaires, et comme ils ne nourrissent pas moins de haine contre les Chrétiens que les autres, il y a eu d'entre eux qui ont été dans l'agression et qui semblent avoir été dans la préméditation.

Pourtant on ne peut point leur attribuer le commencement de l'agression, comme son Altesse Midhat Pacha a voulu montrer à la Sublime Porte, ni leur jeter tout le tort, comme l'autorité d'Acre a voulu; ils n'ont été que des coopérateurs, comme il est constaté par les enquêtes minutieusement tenues à Caiffa, et sur la partialité tenue contre eux par le Tribunal d'Appel d'Acre je me suis assez exprimé par mon Rapport No. 35.

L'événement du 27 Juin a été considéré par moi et par mes collègues, les Représentants des Puissances Européennes à Acre et Caiffa, comme fait préméditè, et presque général, pour les raisons suivantes:—

1. Parce qu'un nombre de Musulmans, entre eux quelques cavass, ont porté des sabres, des armes-à-feu, et des gros bâtons, chose qui n'est point d'usage dans les noces de nuit.

2. Parce qu'ils sont tombés sur un petit nombre de Chrétiens sans armes, et même sur les Notables Chrétiens qui ont eu le malheur de courir au bruit pour savoir ce dont il s'agit, et les ont chargé tous des blessures presque mortelles.

3. Parce que le policeman a évité de se trouver dans les noces, et il a confessé devant trois personnes comme quoi il a été à jour de cet événement cinq jours avant son arrivée, mais que s'il n'a pas été avec les gendarmes à la procession c'est parce qu'on lui avait assuré qu'à cause de la maladie du père de l'époux Turc la cérémonie n'aurait plus lieu. De cela, et du refus d'interroger ce policeman pour constater la préméditation, j'ai exposé assez par mes Rapports sub Nos. 29 et 32.

4. Parce que les Notables Musulmans trouvés à la procession au lieu d'empêcher, ont ordonné et excité, comme il a été prouvé par l'enquête de Caiffa, démarches contraires aux habitudes tenues par les Notables aux simples disputes qui arrivent parmi des jeunes gens querellés.

5. Parce que les Turcs, après avoir assommé ceux qui sont tombés sous leurs mains, ont parcouru les quartiers Chrétiens armés et tenant des chants alarmants, comme il a été constaté à l'enquête même, et qu'il a été même déclaré par l'Evêque Grec Catholique au Commandant du "Bittern" chez-moi et en présence de tous mes collègues réunis. Ce nombre de révolutionnaires composés des agresseurs et d'un nombre de leurs coreligionnaires joints à eux, qui forme environ 200 personnes, prouve que la révolte des Turcs a été presque générale et fait concevoir quel a été l'état des familles Chrétiennes qui les entendaient.

Il me reste à vous observer, M. le Gérant, que son Altesse Midhat Pacha dans ce qu'il a rapporté sur la présence de l'autorité locale à la dispute et d'avoir calmé les esprits la nuit même, ne touche point la réalité, parce que le Câïmacam et le Juge sans gendarmes sont arrivés presqu'après moi et lorsque tout le monde était retiré et les esprits n'ont été un peu calmés qu'après l'arrivée du "Bittern," qui a quitté notre rade parce qu'il a été remplacé par le "Rapid" et non pas pour les raisons que son Altesse mentionne dans sont Rapport au Ministère.

Par mes précédents Rapports j'ai exposé assez et même, je crois, très-minutieusement, l'attitude des autorités d'Acre et Caiffa, surtout après l'arrivée de l'Inspecteur de

Justice et du Directeur Politique et la partialité tenue vers les Musulmans et non vers les cavass, quoique Musulmans à cause de leur qualité de protégés et des desseins montrés contre les innocents Chrétiens qu'ils ont voulu inculper à toute force sans pourtant y réussir à cause de leur inculpabilité, et ce qui est plus regrettable encore, c'est de voir les condamnés par défaut se promener toujours à Caiffa, et ceux dont la condamnation a été rectifiée à Acre sont très-largement tenus, et même il y a d'entre eux de ceux qui viennent de temps en temps passer le nuit chez eux à Caiffa.

Du reste, comme il a été constaté au Commandant du "Bittern" par ce qu'il a entendu de mes collègues, surtout de l'Agent Consulaire d'Italie, qui était le plus acharné et de l'Evêque Grec Catholique dans la réunion qui a eu lieu chez moi et qu'il doit vous avoir rapporté minutieusement, mon attitude a été conforme à celle de mon collègue de France, qui avait pris déjà le premier pas d'exposer télégraphiquement à son Consulat-Général le fait; et de mes autres collègues, qui ont copié ma dépêche télégraphique pour la communiquer télégraphiquement à leurs Chefs, et que les démarches prises par nous tous ont été opportunes pour prévenir des conséquences plus fâcheuses, parce que le dit Evêque à son passage même pour venir chez moi a entendu par plusieurs Turcs des murmures et des menaces pour un coup plus foudroyant après le départ du "Bittern."

De ce que je vous ai exposé, M. le Gérant, avant et de ce que j'expose ci-haut, je suis persuadé que mes démarches seront justifiées devant qui de droit et que le crédit et la confiance desquels son Altesse Midhat Pacha parle dans son Rapport ne seront point désormais perdus, comme son Altesse le prétend.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) Dr. J. SCHMIDT.

Inclosure 12 in No. 134.

Mr. Goschen to Assim Pasha.

Therapia, September 27, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

IN a note which I had the honour to address to your Excellency's predecessor, No. 220 of the 13th ultimo, I stated that I had called upon the Acting British Consul in Syria for further information with regard to the affray which took place on the 27th of last June between Mosiems and Christians at Caiffa.

In that note I observed to his Excellency Abédine Pasha that the remission of the sentences which had been pronounced against the ringleaders could scarcely fail to create the impression that attacks when made on Christians are not severely punished.

That impression, I regret to have to state to your Excellency, has been most painfully confirmed by the Reports with which I have been subsequently furnished from the British Consular officer at Caiffa, who states that six of the Turks who were condemned in default for their share in the transaction may be seen in complete enjoyment of their liberty at Caiffa, while those whose sentences of imprisonment have been diminished are kept with great latitude ("très-largement tenus") at Acre.

Mr. Schmidt further states that, notwithstanding that the policeman, Abden Effendi, is said to have admitted, in the presence of three witnesses, that he was aware five days before the event of the hostile intentions of the Mussulmans, he has not been examined before the Tribunal, as was pressed for, but was sent away from Caiffa when his evidence might have materially supported the assertion, the attacks had been premeditated and arranged beforehand.

I regret to say that I am unable to arrive at any conclusion, from the evidence now before me, than that the examination of this matter has not been impartially conducted, while there is apparently every disposition on the part of the authorities to condone the offence for which the accused persons received sentence of punishment.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 135.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 404.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 28, 1880.

I INFORMED your Lordship in my despatch No. 319 of the 3rd instant that I had called the attention of the Armenian Patriarch to the great discrepancy which existed between the returns furnished by him of the population of the Siwas Vilayet and those which reached me from other quarters. I have now the honour to inclose copy of a further letter from his Beatitude on the subject, together with a memorandum by Colonel Wilson on the Patriarch's estimate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

The Armenian Patriarch to Mr. Goschen.

Excellence, *Constantinople, le* $\frac{20 \text{ Août}}{1^{er} \text{ Septembre}}$, 1880.

JE m'empresse de répondre aux justes observations de votre honorable lettre en date du 6 courant, relativement au Tableau de la population mixte du vilayet de Sivas que j'avais l'honneur de présenter à votre Excellence.

En dressant ce Tableau, Excellence, je n'avais en vue que la partie Arménienne, proprement, dite de ce vilayet, comme Sivas, Divrik, et ses adjacents; j'ai omis, par conséquent, tous les sandjaks du sud-est, qui ne font pas partie de l'Arménie, comme, par exemple, Tokat (Gomana Arménien) Dérendé, Guérune, Tonous, Azizié; ce dernier est tout récemment ajouté au vilayet de Sivas, et principalement Amassia et Schabin-Kara-Hissar, dans lesquels les Arméniens sont beaucoup plus nombreux que dans celui de Sivas.

Et d'ailleurs, les limites de ce vilayet sont très-souvent sujettes de changement et ceci suivant qu'un Vali de haute importance y est nommé; et de plus, depuis la dernière guerre d'innombrables hordes de Tcherkes Islams, de Bulgares Islams, et de Lazes ont émigré dans ces provinces, où le nombre des Chrétiens était sur le point d'outrepasser celui des Islams. Or donc, le vilayet de Sivas est notamment de ceux ou un plus grand nombre d'émigrés de toutes les races ont été envoyé pour s'y établir, surtout dans le Sandjak d'Azizié et autres. Mais d'après mes derniers renseignements ces colonies n'ont pas été jusqu'à présent fixées dans un endroit; elles parcourent tout le vilayet afin de choisir l'endroit qui leur plaît pour y fixer leurs demeures; de sorte que le dénombrement même le moins probable est impossible et nous n'aurons toujours qu'un nombre approximatif de la population purement Musulmane.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) NERCÈS, *Patriarche des Arméniens.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

TABLEAU Comparatif de la population mixte du Vilayet de Sivas, y compris tous les sandjaks sud-est, comme Tokat, Amassia, Schabin-Kara-Hissar, &c.

Arméniens	199,245
Grecs	37,600
Turcs-Islams	175,000
Kozel Pachas	175,000
Kurdes	45,693
Tcherkes	52,525
	605,063

J'ai tâché de mettre le minimum du nombre de la population Arménienne, et le maximum de celui des autres.

(Signé) NERCÈS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 135.

Memorandum on Letter of Armenian Patriarch dated August/September 30, 1880.

THE letter of the Armenian Patriarch shows a great want of local knowledge with regard to the Vilayet of Siwas and the distribution of the Christians. For instance, he describes Dévendé, Guérun, Tonous, and Azizié as sandjaks, whilst one of them is only a nahié and the other three are cazas; he places Tokat to the south-east of Siwas, whereas it lies north-north-west; and he states that Azizié has quite recently been added to the Vilayet of Siwas, which is very far from being accurate.

Divrik, with a population of 15,000 Christians and 45,278 Moslems, is included in Armenia, whilst Guérun, with 8,830 Christians and 9,930 Moslems, and Tonous, with 10,000 Christians and 22,272 Moslems, are classed amongst the districts "qui ne font pas partie de l'Arménie."

The refugees are not, it is believed, included in the estimates of population forwarded with my despatch No. 56 of the 1st instant; at any rate, the statement that before the arrival of the refugees the number of Christians was almost in excess of that of the Moslems is very wide of the truth. The estimate of the Armenian Bishop of Siwas in August last was 201,245 Christians and 694,431 Moslems for the whole vilayet; this does not include refugees, and allowance must be made for the enormous loss of life experienced by the Moslems during the war.

The following statistics were supplied to me by the Armenian Bishop of Siwas in January last:—

	Christians.	Moslems.
Siwas (including Hafik, Kotchkiri, Yenikhan, and Kangal	58,355	85,891
Tokat	12,500	50,772
Dévendé	2,500	16,421
Divrik	15,000	45,278
Guérun	8,830	9,930
Tonous	10,000	22,272
Azizié	8,000	78,914
Amasia	52,000	256,900
Ginbin Kara Hissar	53,000	128,920
	201,245	694,431
	895,676	

The numbers of the Armenian Patriarch are now:—

Christians	215,815
Moslems	388,218
Total	605,963

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

September 22, 1880.

No. 136.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 5.*)

(No. 405.) *Therapia, September* 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Trotter, giving an account of the conditions of the Armenian population in the neighbourhood of Van and Bashkala.

Captain Clayton's despatch No. 26 to Major Trotter, alluded to in Major Trotter's despatch, was sent to your Lordship in my despatch No. 389 of the 24th instant.

I forward herewith to your Lordship a copy of the despatch from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Barnham which is also alluded to in this Report.

A copy of Captain Everett's despatch No. 21 to Major Trotter has, I believe, been sent to your Lordship by Captain Everett himself.

As these three last despatches are all mentioned in Major Trotter's Report, I would suggest that they should all be printed together.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 136.

Major Trotter to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 39.)

Sir, *Constantinople, September* 20, 1880.

HAVING quite recently received despatches from Captain Clayton, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, I take the opportunity to reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 27th August, calling for my opinion in regard to the condition of the Armenian population in the neighbourhood of Van and Bashkala.

I beg to request your Excellency's special attention to Captain Clayton's despatch No. 26, Political, of the 24th August, wherein he calls attention to the action of the local authorities who have been sending Commissioners to various parts of the district, ostensibly for the purpose of inquiring into the truth or otherwise of the alleged outrages that have from time to time been brought to the notice of the Porte by the Armenian Patriarchate, but in reality to put pressure on the inhabitants to sign untruthful statements to the effect that they are quite satisfied with the existing régime. There is, I regret to state, no doubt in my own mind that this action has been undertaken with a view to support the Porte in the line of action that has recently been adopted by the Turkish Government in its communications with the Ambassadors on the subject of reform.

Captain Clayton writes: "Wherever I go the same complaints reach me that the peasantry are never safe day or night from the incursions and robberies, or worse, of their Kurkish neighbours." He also gives a long list of outrages that have occurred in the Van and Bashkala districts during the months of April, May, June, and July, comprising eleven murders (four of which were by Persian Kurds), one abduction and forcible conversion of a woman to Islamism, some twenty* villages plundered of the whole or part of their flocks and herds, four highway robberies, and the plunder of several mills belonging to monasteries, also the robbery of cattle sent to the districts by the Armenian Relief Committee.

The list of outrages given by Captain Clayton, although bad enough, does not show so appalling a state of society as some of the reports from the Patriarchate; but there is everywhere a very natural feeling of insecurity.

When myself travelling in the neighbourhood of Van last June I passed through the district of Kiawash, the Christian villages of which appeared to me to be in a highly flourishing condition, although the inhabitants assured me they were always in fear of depredations of Kurds from the mountains, and from Captain Clayton's list I find that on the 16th July forty horsemen of the Kharghir tribe attacked two villages in that very district and carried off 372 sheep, thus showing that the inhabitants were not unreasonable in their fears.

It would appear that matters are no better in the eastern portion of the Erzeroum Vilayet. Captain Everett,† who has recently been travelling in the east and south-east portions of that district, writes, "At no time since my arrival‡ in the country has life and property been so insecure as at present. In every district through which I travelled, robbery, often accompanied by murder, is being extensively practised by Kurds and Circassians. The settled Kurds and Yezidis complained as bitterly as the Christians of this scourge. I may most accurately affirm that the life of no unescorted traveller is safe."

Again, Acting Vice-Consul Barnham writes from Kharput§ that there is complete disorganization in many parts of the Vilayet of Diarbekir.

It is thus evident that both life and property, not only of Christians but also in many instances of Kurds, are generally insecure throughout the country districts, more especially in those parts that have been or still are affected by famine or scarcity. There the starving Kurds come down at night and cut and carry off the still standing crops.

Since this despatch was written I have received your Excellency's instructions to

* Several of them Kurdish.

† *Vide* Captain Everett's despatch No. 21, Political, of September 7, 1880.

‡ Rather more than a year ago.

§ *Vide* Mr. Barnham's despatch No. 5, Political, of August 28, 1880.

prepare a memorandum showing the evils resulting to the country from the non-introduction of the often promised reforms. As this memorandum will necessarily be of some length, I shall not now add anything more to the present despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 136.

Acting Vice-Consul Barnham to Major Trotter.

(No. 5. Political.) *Kharpoot, August* 28, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE taken advantage of the arrival at Kharpoot of Colonel Skender Bey to obtain from him, for your information, such particulars as he is able to furnish as to the state of the districts through which he has travelled.

His itinerary includes the greater part of the Vilayets of Diarbekir and Kharpoot and portions of those of Erzeroum, Bitlis, and Aleppo; but, as you saw him during your passage through Saert, he will probably have communicated to you his early experiences in person.

He reports complete disorganization in that part of the Vilayet of Diarbekir which includes the Kaïmakamliks of Hassro, Fakheen, and Lijin. The authority of the Government is almost *nil*; the Kurds come down from the mountains and plunder the newly-reaped corn, and outrages continually occur of which nothing is heard, owing to the fact that the offenders are in most cases men of influence who can silence the authorities with gold and avenge themselves upon those whom inform against them.

There are in and near the Kaïmakamlik of Hassro some 250 Kurdish villages which entirely repudiate the authority of the Government, and where no taxes are collected. In conversation with some of the Kurds of these villages the answer given to Skender Bey's query why they did not submit to the Government was that the Local Government was an association of robbers, and that taxes paid into the local Treasury became the spoil of the local officials, whereas they preferred to maintain their independence and rob on their own account. Travelling through such a country is naturally very unsafe, and only to be recommended when in the company and under the protection of an inhabitant of the district.

At Adinman, or Hussni-Manzoor as it is sometimes called, a cavalry station, eighteen miles south of Malatia, a band of Kurds recently made a determined attack upon the barracks, and two soldiers were killed. The troops were evidently in too small force to offer an effective resistance to their assailants, and it is the case that almost always when a strong band of marauders goes abroad there are not sufficient troops at hand to subdue them. In such districts as these there can, I think, be no good government until very strong measures have been taken to punish outrages and secure the regular payment of the taxes.

If a corps d'armée could be brought to Diarbekir, strong garrisons be posted there, at Mardin, Kharpoot, and Malatia; if martial law were proclaimed, and a few of the more guilty were summarily executed, these troubles in Kurdistan would cease. The Government would gain financially by receiving the regular payment of the taxes, and the Kurds would be induced to settle down quietly in their villages, instead of running about in search of plunder. The Kurds have hitherto been taught to look with something like contempt upon their rulers. They have been treated with neither kindness nor severity; all they have seen has been the incapacity of the Government, and one cannot wonder that they mean to take advantage of it. Yet the establishment of martial law would be but a half measure if the local civil authorities were not powerful and honest. An honest and enlightened Governor-General, unfettered by intrigues at Constantinople, would greatly benefit the country, and would succeed in his work much better if he were not, as is too often the case, hindered by a corrupt and ignorant Medjliss.

The collection of the tithes is now going on all over the country, and the Government lose a large portion of the revenue owing to the dishonesty of the officials employed as collectors. Before the Government receives the tithe the rapacity of the Kaïmakams and members of the Ikhtiar Medjliss* must be satisfied by a present of so many measures of wheat, and the collector in like manner puts aside so many measures for himself. The cultivator is forced to look on without a murmur. Should he oppose

* Village Council.

the proceedings of the collector, he is punished by having the tithe very largely increased. The cultivator is only part owner. After the tithe has been collected, one-half of the wheat goes to the cultivator and one-half to the owner of the soil.

A case occurred a year or two ago in the Arabkir villages, where an honest official, a Protestant, was employed to collect the tithe. The profit to the Government was enormous; there had been nothing like it before; but the official gained so many enemies that he refused to collect a second year. He made enemies of the Kaïmakam and members of the Ikhtiar Medjliss, whom he would not allow to appropriate the grain, and of candidates for the office in general, who would not dare after such an exposure to plunder as before. Though I have not received any satisfactory information on the subject, it appears that much uneasiness is felt at Fakheen that the exiled Kurdish Beys will soon return.

Baron Gerages Hohannesian, a Protestant pastor of Fakheen, writes on the 6th August: "The Kurds of this region have again begun their evil deeds. The Anceran-Hozaben of Hassro has escaped and come to this place, and we fear that the Fakheen Beys will also soon return." He also reports frequent robberies, chiefly of grain.

I would suggest that as the Kurdish Beys were sent into exile by Abédine Pasha, and as his Excellency is now a member of the Cabinet at Constantinople, the question of the disposal of the Beys should be brought to his notice, with a view to prevent their return to their old quarters.

Pastor Kaomé, of Redwán, whose petition I forwarded to you on the 12th instant, writes at a later date: "Nearly every day an outrage is perpetrated either by the Kurds or the local officials. Last evening several mounted zaptiehs came here, took out beds and donkeys by force, and beat the villagers. The Kaïmakam of Redwan is utterly ignorant, and under the influence of a most corrupt set of men, the chief of them being Yusouf Elfendi, who a few years back caused the elopement of a young Armenian girl, and secured her for one of his Moslem retainers. He, about the same time, caused the murder of a leading Armenian member of the Medjliss."

A burglary in the market-place of Chengoosh, fourteen hours distant from here, and the murder of a watchman was reported to me a few days ago, and about the same time a case of highway robbery occurred very near to Kharpoot.

I regret to say that the prospects for the coming winter are not encouraging. Mr. Andrus, of Mardin, writes on the 12th August: "The prospects at present are more gloomy than they were a year ago at this time. There is very little wheat, barley, or millet in the market, and only barley flour is procurable. Prices are higher than they were a year ago at this time. Quarrels have already occurred in the market over the little wheat which has found its way into it. Poverty and speculation increase the cost of living. A weak Government, business prostration, and the spirit of speculation have produced a scarcity in provisions of all kinds."

A correspondent from Diarbekir writes: "There is great sickness in this city, and many are dying. Provisions are dear, and poverty increases day by day."

The Vali of Kharpoot is at Arghana Maden, the Deftardar acting in his absence. The Inspector of Justice is at Arabkir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 137.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 550.) *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your Excellency's despatch No. 314 of the 31st August last upon the question of the reforms which should be introduced into the administration of the Asiatic provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

It seems to be the opinion of those most competent to judge the matter, and notably of Her Majesty's Consular officers, whose duties in Asia Minor have given them special opportunities of studying the question, that without some sort of European supervision it is greatly to be feared that all attempts at reform may prove abortive.

The difficulty, however, of applying such supervision, the jealousy and misconstruction which it would entail, and the complications which would ensue, render it doubtful, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, whether it is a point which should be recommended for adoption by the Porte.

It would appear to be more advisable to trust to such supervision as is afforded by

the action of Her Majesty's Consular authorities, and to rely mainly on the undoubted benefit to the populations which would be secured by the appointment, for a fixed term, to the office of Vali of men who have proved themselves to be capable and honest, and to the decentralization of the Local Governments so as to render them more independent than they now are from the baneful influence of the capital.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 138.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 560.)
Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 373 of the 20th ultimo, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the note which you have addressed to the Porte respecting the state of affairs in the Hakkiari district.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 139.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.)
Tehran, October 8, 1880.

A LARGE body of Kurds, said to number 15,000, from various tribes on both sides of frontier, under the leadership of Abdullah Kader, son of the Turkish Chief Sheikh Obeidullah, and a Persian Chief named Hamzah Agha, have forcibly taken possession of the town and district of Souj-bulak, whence Persian authorities have fled, and are now reported to have advanced to within a few miles of town of Maragha, where they have pillaged several villages.

The Persian Government have ordered troops from Tabreez and adjacent provinces to the spot, and Prince Hamzeh Mirza leaves Tehran to-day to take command. His force will, it is said, consist of 12,000 regular and irregular troops, with artillery.

The Turkish Ambassador has telegraphed to Van, asking that Turkish troops may co-operate with Persians in order to prevent the Kurds from obtaining refuge in Turkish territory when driven out of Persian districts.

(Communicated to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and to Viceroy of India.)

No. 140.

Extract from Note from the Porte of the 3rd October, inclosed in Mr. Goschen's No. 423 of the 5th October.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 10.)

Réformes dans les Localités habitées par les Arméniens.

LE Gouvernement Ottoman ayant pris, en vertu de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, l'engagement d'exécuter sans retard les réformes qu'exigent les besoins locaux dans les endroits habités par les Arméniens, de garantir leur sécurité contre les Circassiens et les Kurdes, et de faire connaître périodiquement les mesures à prendre à cet effet aux Puissances qui en surveilleront l'application, avait, après la conclusion de la paix, envoyé des inspecteurs sur les lieux. Si les communications faites aux Puissances Contractantes à l'égard de l'enquête confiée à ces inspecteurs ne furent pas complètes, c'est parce qu'à part quelques améliorations introduites à la hâte dans l'Administration de la Police de certaines localités, le Gouvernement Impérial n'avait pu accomplir toutes les réformes nécessaires.

A l'heure qu'il est, le Gouvernement a complété l'enquête prescrite par les soins de Baker Pacha et d'autres fonctionnaires de l'Empire, et il vient de décider de mettre en application les mesures suivantes :—

1. Dans le but de garantir l'ordre et la sécurité des habitants, les Tribunaux

des Provinces d'Erzéroum, de Van, de Bitlis, et de Diarbékir seront encore mieux organisés et réformés, et un Muchir de l'Empire aura spécialement pour mission de surveiller cette réforme ;

2. Dans un délai de trois mois à partir du jour où les assurances demandées aux Puissances seront obtenues, le Gouvernement Impérial réorganisera la police et la gendarmerie des provinces susnommées, afin d'y assurer d'une façon permanente l'ordre et la sécurité publics ;

3. Les Colonels de Gendarmerie (Alaï Beyis) seront nommés par le Ministère Impérial de la Guerre. Le choix des autres officiers se fera par le soin des Conseils des régiments, et leur nomination sera confirmée par le Département de la Guerre sur la proposition des Gouverneurs-Généraux. Ceux-ci seront autorisés à répartir les agents de police dans leurs provinces, suivant les besoins locaux : et sur leur avis conforme le Ministre de la Guerre révoquera tous ceux des Colonels et officiers de gendarmerie qui seraient reconnus incapables d'exercer leurs fonctions ;

4. Le mode d'organisation des communes, formulé dans la note de la Sublime Porte en date du 5 Juillet dernier, sera complété dans l'espace de quatre mois et dans des conditions conformes aux intérêts de l'Etat ;

5. A l'exception des Douanes et des Contributions Indirectes, ainsi que des recettes des postes et télégraphes, tous les autres revenus des provinces susindiquées seront destinés avant tout au service des prescriptions budgétaires provinciales qui comprennent les autres dépenses importantes. On prélèvera sur l'excédant de ces mêmes revenus 10 pour cent pour les besoins locaux, tels que l'instruction et les travaux publics, et le reste, ainsi que l'excédant qui pourrait se produire dans la dite allocation de 10 pour cent, seront expédiés à Constantinople ;

6. Le choix et la nomination des fonctionnaires judiciaires de la province se feront conformément au règlement spécial existant, et, quant aux fonctionnaires d'Administration, ceux-ci seront nommés, en vertu d'une Ordonnance Impériale rendue sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, appuyée par l'avis conforme des Ministères dont ils relèvent. Les Gouverneurs-Généraux auront la faculté, en observant le règlement y relatif, de révoquer et de nommer les fonctionnaires d'Administration de leurs provinces, à l'exception des Préfets (Mutessarifs), des Directeurs des Finances (Defterdars), et des Secrétaires-Généraux (Mektoubjis). Dans le choix de ces fonctionnaires on ne devra avoir en vue que le mérite et la probité. Seront admis aux emplois publics tous les sujets de l'Empire, aux termes de l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin, et d'après les dispositions mêmes des lois Ottomanes existantes, pourvu qu'ils réunissent les susdites qualités requises ;

7. Les Tribunaux Nizamiés appliqueront le Code Ottoman (Médjellé), et les autres lois en vigueur dans l'Empire.

No. 141.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10, 3·40 A.M.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 9, 1880, 10 P.M.

I HAVE communicated to Persian Embassy substance of information received from Tehran, and fact respecting invasion of Persian territory by Kurds and Nesagaians. They were not aware that the frontier had been crossed, their last news being dated four days ago.

Porte, to whom I communicated same news, only informed me that an important telegram was expected from Mosul.

No. 142.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.)
Tehran, October 11, 1880.

THE Shah sent for me to-day, and spoke about Kurdish irruption into Azerbijan. He requested me to address an earnest appeal to Her Majesty's Government, to the effect that they, as one of Mediating Powers, would, through Her Majesty's Ambassador, strongly impress upon the Porte the urgent necessity of their co-operating with Persia, by threatening Sheikh Obeidullah by military demonstration or otherwise, so as to

make him recall his son with his followers from Persian territory, and desist from his present hostile intentions. His Majesty also wished the Porte to take military measures on frontier, in order to prevent Kurds, when attacked by Persian troops, from taking refuge on Turkish territory.

His Majesty stated that reinforcements which are being sent would not be on the spot for another month, and that Russia might take advantage of this delay to interfere, pleading as an excuse safety and interests of her subjects in Azerbijan.

There are now three regiments in Azerbijan, and five more called out; the reinforcements being sent from the capital and other places amount to about 10,000 men, and include one of the new regiments, and one battery with rifled guns, instructed by Austrians, with four Austrian officers, and two batteries of the old Persian artillery. The Persian Government estimate rebellion of Kurds at about 7,000 men.

The ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs has been appointed to Tabreez, as responsible Administrator of the province under the Heir-Apparent.

(Sent to Constantinople and India.)

No. 143.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 414.) *Therapia, October 1, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of Captain Everett's despatch to Major Trotter, to which reference is made in my despatch No. 405 of the 28th ultimo.

I received this despatch after the departure of last messenger, but it should form Inclosure No. 3 in my above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 143.

Vice-Consul Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 21. Political.) *Thortum Kaleh, September 7, 1880.*

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 20, Political, of the 19th July, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Delimitation of the Frontier marched from Karaourgan to Medjinghert, and from thence to Kara-Kilissa, on the left bank of the Araxes, when they completed their labours on the 11th August, and left the country the same day. The Russian and Turkish Commissioners then moved their camps to Sarykamish and Chorassan respectively, where they will remain until the boundary posts are constructed; after which they purpose visiting the old frontier of 1829, from the neighbourhood of Kaghysman to Ararat. Immense numbers of refugees, proceeding in the direction of Erzeroum, continued to cross the frontier during our stay at Karaourgan. The Armenian officer of customs at that place taxed them freely, and I am glad to be able to inform you that General Zelenoy, the Russian Commissioner, put a stop to it, and reported the official to his superior officer.

Although the Commissioners made every effort to satisfy the claims of the villagers, it was of course impossible to content everybody. While inhabitants of Turkish villages were naturally very disappointed when they found they were left in Russia, the Armenians were, generally speaking, very thankful to become Russian subjects, and very discontented when left in Turkey. This feeling was particularly noticeable at Kara-Kilissa, a large village mostly Armenian, situated on the new frontier of Turkey. The people here complained greatly of the oppressions of the Turkish soldiery, who took from them everything without payment; a state of things contrasting most unfavourably with the village of Bashkeui, an Armenian village of 120 houses, at an hour and a-half's distance, now flourishing in a most contented state under Russian rule, and occupied by a Cossack detachment, with whom the people get on admirably. It is noticeable that at Kara-Kilissa the Turkish inhabitants are dependent even for bread on their Armenian brethren. The Kurds seemed indifferent to their fate, but if anything showed a leaning towards Russia. While at Medjinghert

I accompanied General Hamley to Sary-kamish, now one of the Russian frontier stations, and the terminus of the Russian telegraph. Very great improvements are visible everywhere. Permanent barracks for the regiment quartered there are in course of construction, and several shops are being built. In the country round Circassian brigandage still exists, but the Cossacks make praiseworthy efforts to put it down, and will doubtless soon stamp it out.

On leaving the Commission I marched by Delibaba into Alashghert, and from thence by Changyr into Aintap, following the course of the Murad-su (Euphrates) to within an hour or two of Melashghert. Finding myself on the boundary of my vilayet, I turned west into the Valley of the Tuzla-Tchai, and so into the Plain of Chanous, returning to Erzeroum by the road over the Palentoken Mountains. As you are aware, my originial intention was to have joined the missionaries near Bayazid, but they returned up the Delibaba Pass by one road as I went down by another. Hearing that they had been to Bayazid and completed the distribution of the flour sent down by me on the 12th July, I determined to visit new districts, and so took the route indicated above.

Four important questions came under my notice. Firstly, the want of wood for building purposes, occasioned by the loss of the Soghanli Dagh. Secondly, the prospects of the harvest. Thirdly, the insecurity of life and property; and fourthly, the absence of anything in the shape of Government beyond the mere form.

If Turkey had pointed out clearly to the other Powers at Berlin the consequences which the loss of the Soghanli forest would entail on the inhabitants of all the districts situated south and west of the present Russian frontier, it is probable that some arrangement would have been made by which the inhabitants might have been allowed by payment to cut wood for a limited time.

As you are well aware, the villages in the districts of Alashghert, Kara-Kilissa, Diadin, and Bayazid are partially ruined, the wood having been extracted from the houses by the troops. In the Passin this is also the case, though not to the same extent. The question now arises, from whence is wood to be obtained to rebuild? The districts of Aintap, Chanous, and Bhelanyk are equally affected by the loss. In every portion of the country I visited the first question asked me was whether the Soghanli was left to Turkey, and I could see that my answer filled the people with real dismay, and well it might, since they have before them the prospects of their villages gradually tumbling to pieces without the possibility of reconstruction.

The Vali informs me that people are permitted to take away trees that are fallen on payment of the tax. I have written to the Russian Consul-General at Erzeroum for exact information as to the existing regulations, and I will forward you his reply. But whatever the regulations may be, they do not appear to have been carried out. I have questioned numbers of the inhabitants belonging to villages on both sides of the frontier. From them I learnt that the tax for cutting wood in the Soghanli Dagh is 9 piastres per araba, and 3 piastres in addition taken in the market where it is sold. For large timber suitable for building purposes the tax is about 30 piastres per piece, or 2½ piastres the inch. In no case whatever is wood allowed to be taken out of the country. I have also questioned many men bringing wood towards Erzeroum, and have always been told that the wood was drawn, as I mentioned to you in my despatch No. 20, Political, from the Karetschlu Mountains. I never once found any wood coming from the Soghanli, and the wood-cutters invariably informed me that they were not permitted to cut it there. With regard to fallen trees in the forest, I noticed that they were being rapidly converted into charcoal by the Russian soldiery. There is nothing to find fault with these arrangements. The Russians know the value of their new possession, and will doubtless take better care of it than the Turks did. But at the same time, it would be well if some steps could be taken to enable the inhabitants of the above-mentioned districts to procure wood for a limited time. The houses in Alashghert and the Passin were, in all probability, mainly ruined by the Russian soldiery, who, quartered there during the severe winter, were obliged to take the wood for fuel, and it would be a generous action, which would be gratefully acknowledged by the inhabitants, if Russia would allow them, on payment of the tax, to take for a limited time such wood as would be required to repair the ruins caused by the war. Indeed, considering that very many of the sufferers are Christians, for whose benefit the war was made, it would be only consistent to give them this slight assistance. In any case, it is more than ever necessary now to plant new forests, and at the same time to alter the style of architecture, so that some other material may be substituted for the immense quantity of heavy timber at present used in the construction of the roof. This would not be impossible, for the main material for a magnificent cement lies

ready to hand in the quantity of gypsum to be found in the Kop-Dagh and in that range of mountains generally. The arched roof, so common in India, might then be adopted; architects only are required to instruct the people.

I exhorted the inhabitants everywhere to begin to plant trees. In most of the valleys the poplar and willow will grow well, and on the mountains firs of all kinds will flourish. I especially noticed how suitable for this purpose is the Plain of Chanous, nature having supplied it with an inexhaustible supply of water issuing from the rocks of the Ak-Dagh, in some places on a breadth of 10 or 12 feet. If proper use were made of it, I am convinced extensive forests might be reared in this region.

With regard to the famine, I am happy to inform you that it may be considered to be confined, so far as this vilayet is concerned, to the districts of Alashghert, Karakilissa, Diadin, and Bayazid. Some help may be required for Aintap, and for a few villages in the Chanous region, on the southern slopes of the Palentoken Mountains. My journey being made at a time when all existing crops of wheat and barley were clearly visible, I was enabled to form a very good opinion of the state of the country without having to trust to information given me by the inhabitants. The crops in the Lower Passin are magnificent. True it is, the people have sown only one-fourth the usual amount, but no famine exists there, nor is it likely to exist.

In Chanous also, the harvest will be plentiful; no doubt, in some of the villages there will be scarcity, and possibly poverty, but no such thing as famine. In Aintap, a district inhabited mainly by Hasseranli Kurds and Yezidis, there is barely sufficient grain to supply the people with bread, and at the same time furnish grain for the sowing; especially among the Yezidi villages.

It is, therefore, to the eastern districts that attention must be turned, and as I have already telegraphed to you, every effort must be made to obtain subscriptions, in order to throw in as much seed as possible. I can add very little to what I have already said in my despatch No. 7, Commercial, of the 7th July. The people, so long deprived of bread, are cutting enough for daily use whenever a patch of barley becomes ripe enough, and the Kurds come down every night and cut more for themselves.

As all this cutting is taking place before the arrival of the Assessor, the tithe will hardly represent the tenth of the total crop. Although the average amount sown in Alashghert is one-tenth of the usual quantity, many villages are almost destitute of grain; and from what the missionaries tell me, they found a similar state of things all the way down to Bayazid. I will forward you a copy of their Report so soon as they hand it in. In accordance with your instructions, I have relieved the remains of the Djemadauli tribe, giving them £ T. 40 and 1,800 hotmans of flour. I have also brought their condition to the notice of the Vali. At no time since my arrival in the country has life and property been so insecure as at present.

In every district through which I have travelled robbery of every kind, often accompanied by murder, is being extensively practised by Kurds and Circassians. The settled Kurds and Yezidis complained as bitterly as the Christians of this scourge. I may most accurately affirm that the life of no unescorted traveller is safe. Caravans are attacked, and from them both goods and horses are stolen, while night after night the crops of the villages are cut and carried off, and in some cases hay-ricks are burnt.

The Government is quite powerless to restrain these marauders, who, on their part, are quite aware of its weakness. The country is denuded of soldiers, all those in Alashghert having proceeded to Bayazid, while all those on the Chanous side have been sent down to Van. I visited the Kaimakam of Toprak-Kaleh: I believe he is a man who would do his duty well if he were supported, but this is not the case. Just as the Vali of this vilayet never leaves the city of Erzeroum, receiving all his information through his officials, so the Mutessarif of Bayazid appears to remain in his own town, never having once visited Alashghert since his arrival, last autumn. It can be hardly expected that the subordinate officers should work well when their superiors set them so bad an example.

I am glad to be able to report that two evils to which I called your attention last year have lately been rectified, viz., a Mudir has been appointed at Khorassan, and the Kadi of Toprak-Kaleh has been dismissed (see my despatch No. 2 of the 4th November, 1879).

After remaining for three days at Erzeroum I started for this district, where I purpose remaining for another fortnight. In the meanwhile, I am making all arrangements for buying wheat, but am awaiting an answer from Sivas before completing any

purchases. In another fortnight a fall of prices may be expected. Barley is not sown at this time of year. So soon as the purchases are completed I purpose, with your permission, proceeding myself to Bayazid to assist in the distribution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 144.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

No. 418.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the subject of the famine in the districts of Van and Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 22. Political.)
Sir, *Van, June 30, 1880.*

SINCE my journey to Sert to meet you, and my return with you to Van, I have obtained some information about the present condition of the country as regards famine.

In most parts of the Vilayets of Van and Bitlis the severity of the distress has much abated, owing to the possibility now of procuring dairy produce and vegetables. In the more southern portions of the vilayets also the price of grain has fallen, owing to the appearance in the markets of new grain, the harvest having already begun in the south.

At Van itself, however, the price still keeps up, being at present 2½ Turkish liras the "chap," and heart-rending accounts come in of the ravages famine has been, and still is, committing in the regions of Bashkala and Gevver. It is, I think, beyond a doubt, that 10,000 persons have already perished in those regions, and the outlook for the coming year is very black, as very little has been sown, and the Kurds, who are the chief sufferers, have lost almost the whole of their flocks and herds, on which they principally rely for support.

Ninety-eight per cent. of the deaths are said to have taken place among the Kurds, as the Christians have both greater means for tiding over bad times, and also have received most assistance from the Armenian Committees.

Eye-witnesses state that the dead bodies lie unburied in the roads and houses to be devoured by dogs.

The Shikakli Kurds, under Ali Khan, are doing an immense amount of damage by descending from the Persian frontier, plundering villages, and retiring with their booty across the frontier.

Some twenty villages have been pillaged since the spring began. The latest case was a large Armenian village called Haspistan, which was surrounded by Ali Khan's men nine days ago, and every single head of cattle and sheep carried off, three lambs being the total left to a village of over 100 houses. The Government is powerless to protect the people.

According to your instructions I shall start in two days' time for Bashkala, to distribute relief and examine into the general condition of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 145.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 419.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 3, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 300 of the 30th August last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kaisarieh,

containing some further observations on the Porte's note of the 5th July respecting reforms in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 5. Political.) *Kaisarieh, September* 17, 1880.

Sir,

I SHOULD be glad, with your Excellency's permission, to supplement my despatch No. 4 of the 17th August, on Abédine Pasha's reply of the 5th July, with a few remarks on the subject of education, which the grant of one-tenth of the surplus revenue for that and public works brings into prominence, and which I have since had time more carefully to inquire into and consider.

The promise that one-tenth of the revenue should be devoted to these ends aroused not the faintest interest in Kaisarieh, and was for a long while after publication practically unknown even to the officials, those who had taken the trouble to read it having either misunderstood it, or looking upon it merely as "another promise," and, consequently, unworthy of attention.

I was glad, however, to find, on his arrival here, about three weeks ago, that Khourshid Pasha, the Angora Vali, had received the announcement of the grant officially from the Porte, and that a Report had been called for on the subject. I was glad, also, to find that his Excellency took some interest in the question himself, and he has endeavoured, since he has been here, to awaken a similar interest in the local mind, and to ascertain the views and wishes of the people on the subject; but the meeting which his Excellency convened for the purpose of considering this and other questions soon drifted away from the education question to that of a water supply for Kaisarieh plain, which, already an old subject, was revived with energy, but in quite an impracticable way.

The education question in Turkey is met at the outset by this chief difficulty,—the lack of interest. The advantages of education are not in the least appreciated or realized by even the well-to-do portion of the community, except in very rare and isolated cases, and, consequently, not the slightest interest is taken in the matter. Rich merchants even grudge the 1 or 1½ piastres a-week for their children's education, while the poorer classes are practically uneducated. The question, therefore, cannot be discussed in the provinces, where such ignorance and lack of interest prevail, with any hope of a satisfactory conclusion being arrived at.

From various conversations I have had with intelligent people of all races, I find that the principle of purely secular general instruction is not objected to by any means; indeed, the more intelligent are decidedly in favour of such a scheme; and they all admit that, although there might at first be some opposition to the commingling of Mussulman and Christian children, this would soon disappear with efficient management; and, personally, I cannot help believing that such a course would greatly hasten the removal of the cursed fanaticism which exists between the various subjects of the Ottoman Empire, and be the sure foundation of a better state of things, if only time is allowed for its development.

The promise, worthless or not, has been made, and in this vilayet I am informed that the sum to be devoted to education and public works will amount to £ T. 28,000, no mean grant if properly expended; but, unless definite instructions are issued from the Council of Education at Stamboul as to its general disposition and allotment, I greatly fear that, when the new year arrives, no steps will have been taken, and that the grant will be either lavishly expended according to the latest whim of the Vali, or else that it will evaporate in the usual manner, no good being done, and a dangerous precedent for pilfering in a new field having been established.

Practically, it may be said that no such thing as education obtains in Asiatic Turkey. The Moslem system is too well known, and the results too apparent, to need description or allusion.

In some quarters, and aided by the efforts of an American Missionary Society, the Christian population is certainly showing some slight signs of an educational movement, and from the assistance which may now be reasonably expected from the Government this may receive a fresh impetus, but the lack of interest and niggardliness displayed by persons who can well afford to assist the work is very discouraging to the few who are striving to sow the seed. I think, therefore, at first, and until the tree bears fruit, very little pecuniary assistance can be looked for from the people themselves, and it becomes necessary to consider how the Government grant can be devoted so as to secure the best and quickest advantage.

Apart from the question of education as a means of progress and development, the immediate requirements are to provide, firstly, educated men to fill official posts, and secondly, an efficient staff of teachers for general educational purposes. I may be considered sanguine, but I must say I look on education as the only effectual remedy for the almost innate tendency to corruption which exists throughout the Turkish official world, as a means of exciting some amount of patriotism and interest in posterity, which now seem absolutely non-existent, and also as dealing a death-blow to religious intolerance and fanaticism.

As regards the teachers, seeing that competent persons are not forthcoming to act as such, it is evident that they must be trained. This will take five years at least, and meanwhile, the general question of the education of the lower classes can be worked out, and steps taken towards increasing the stock of national literature.

The establishment of large educational colleges at important centres, therefore, with the before-mentioned objects, seems of primary importance. These colleges, as the appreciation of education is aroused, should become eventually entirely self-supporting, and the Government grant can be gradually withdrawn from them and devoted to the welfare of the poorer classes, for which, of course, it is intended.

It may seem presumptive for one who has been but a short time in the country to offer his remarks on such a subject, but a dread lest valuable time is slipping away without the matter receiving the attention it deserves, coupled with a conviction that the true reform for Anatolia, a reform, the benefits accruing from which may take longer in being developed and in being recognized than either the reorganization of police or the constitution of Assize Courts, but which will be infinitely more certain and enduring in its effects, is to be found in education, must be my excuse.

I have no knowledge of what is being done in the matter, but it seems to me that this is a case in which European members of the General Council of Education at Stamboul would be of immense assistance to the Porte in considering some of the various details connected with the question, and in advising, and that their presence can hardly be objected to on political grounds, or through jealousy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 146.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 424.) *Therapia, October* 4, 1880.

My Lord,

MAJOR PICTON WARLOW has addressed to me a despatch, of which I have the honour to forward a copy herewith, in which he gives an approximate estimate of the number of refugees who have arrived during the last four years in the Provinces of Khudavendkiyar, Kastamuni, and Ismid.

I have discussed these figures with Consul-General Colonel Wilson, who considers that they may be taken as tolerably correct; but he doubts whether 65,000 is not considerably in excess of the numbers of refugees who have arrived in Khudavendkiyar (Vilayet of Brussa).

However, Major Warlow states that it was the Vali of Brussa, Ahmed Vefyk, who gave him the figures of 65,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Vice-Consul Picton Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 18.) *Brussa, September* 29, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the numbers of refugees who have arrived in the provinces of my Vice-Consulate during the last four years are as follows: Khudavendkiyar, 65,000; Kastamuni, 28,000; Ismid, 50,000 persons.

The above figures must, however, be taken merely as a rough estimate, framed on information furnished by local authorities combined with what I have been able to pick up during my tours.

2. The President of the Refugee Commission at Constantinople has promised to furnish me with full particulars as to the number, nationality, and distribution of the new refugees, on receipt of which I will send a supplemental despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 147.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 425.) *Therapia, October 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed by the Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir to Major Trotter on the subject of the oppression of the Christians in the Geghi district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 147.

Acting Vice-Consul Barnham to Major Trotter.

(No. 6. Political.) *Kharpoot, September 12, 1880.*

Sir,

I RECEIVED last week letters from three leading Protestants of the Geghi district, reporting the return of the Begs from Erzeroum, and describing various acts of oppression to which the Christian population of that region have again been subjected. Although the Geghi district does not come within the Consular jurisdiction of Diarbekir or Kharpoot, I have thought it my duty to report the matter to you, as the writers addressed themselves to you through Dr. Barnum, of Kharpoot, who has handed the papers over to me, as the question is one in which you have always taken great interest, and in which the British Embassy has, more than once, exercised its influence with a view to ameliorate the condition of Christians in that region. The writers of these letters are Pastor Hachadoor, of the Geghi Kassaba, Dr. Agob Tashjian, and Baron Kivourk, of the village of Temran, who appeared last year at Erzeroum as a witness against the Begs.

Ismail Beg, of Temran, the Chief Beg of the village of Hosnak, Hadji Beg, of Hohor, and Hassan Beg returned home a short time since, being received with great honour by the local authorities. They had been exonerated of all blame by the Erzeroum Government except with regard to the charge of maintaining forced labour among the people, which question it is proposed to settle by an inquiry held upon the spot.

The people, however, discouraged by the return of the Begs, and remembering that all their complaints against them have ended in nothing but an aggravation of their lot, fear to give evidence against them, and desire that the matter may not be brought forward again. These letters, however, show that the Begs renewed their acts of violence immediately after their return. At the village of Abonak the servants of Hassan Beg, by his order, inflicted a severe beating upon two women and several men on account of a field which the Beg had seized from a poor woman. The woman in question pleaded her case last year before the Government at Erzeroum, having made four journeys to Erzeroum for the purpose, and received a written decision confirming her right to the land. Hassan Beg, however, by administering a bribe, got a subsequent decision in his favour, and on his return entered into possession and proceeded to reap the harvest which the woman had sown. When the Beg's servants began reaping the Armenians resisted, whereupon Hassan Beg ordered his servants to beat them, using the words "Take your swords to them."

The letters show that in all cases where land had been forcibly taken by the Begs, it had been secured to them by a decision of the Erzeroum Government.

A Protestant named Hachadoor complains that after reaping his barley Hadji Beg, of Hohor, sent his cattle on to his ground to feed upon it. The cattle of Marka, a Protestant, were carried off by Ismail Beg, of Temran.

The night before the letters were written the Beg of the village of Kerbose beat the Armenians of Chan in a neighbouring village, severely wounding one man.

Such are some among the arbitrary proceedings of the Begs with which these letters deal. It is very clear that the Begs have returned with as much power to work mischief as they had before, and that they are fully determined to use it.

Ismail Beg publicly expressed his sentiments in the following terms:—"I have spent 1,000 liras on your account at Erzeroum, and mean to take it out of you."

Great distress is anticipated in that district owing to the fact that an order has been issued that one-half of this year's tithes shall be sent to Erzeroum, and the other half to the Dersim for the troops.

To supply the wants of the people themselves, it has been usual to store the tithes there and sell them for local consumption. The district being mountainous and the soil unproductive, the crops are insufficient for the population, and the export of the tithe very injudicious. A meeting was to be held at the monastery to take steps for preventing the exportation of grain, and an emigration is very widely discussed. Bread there is said to be very dear and bad; the farmers withhold their grain, and the price of such little as can be found is enormous. I am told that the farmers are everywhere keeping back their grain until they can realize high prices.

At Diarbekir and Mardin very little can be found, and those places are relapsing into the poverty and misery of last winter. If any grain appears in the market it is bought up at once by speculators. Dr. Thom, of Mardin, now in Kharpoot, who has travelled extensively in those regions, expresses his opinion that a famine is impending as severe as that we have just passed through. Poor people who last year had some article of furniture, some cooking utensil or ornament, to raise money upon, have now nothing left.

In my last despatch I referred to reports which I had received from Diarbekir and Fahkeen, showing that some of the Kurdish Begs had returned from Aleppo. It seems now evident that a large number have escaped and are on their way home. Many are in and near Diarbekir. The state of things is deplorable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 148.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 435.) *Therapia, October 8, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Report of Vice-Consul Everett on the note of the Porte, dated the 5th July, on reforms in Armenia.

I particularly recommend this despatch to your Lordship's notice for its force and lucidity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 148.

Vice-Consul Everett to Mr. Goschen.

Erzeroum, September 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, as directed, observations on the reply of the Porte to the identic note, and I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No 148.

Vice-Consul Everett to Mr. Goschen.

Erzeroum, September 23, 1880.

Sir,

THE reply of the Porte to the identic note, on which I have now the honour to make a few observations, is divided into two distinct portions. The second

paragraph contains a statement of what has been already accomplished since the war; the remainder, with the exception of one short paragraph at the end complaining of exaggerated statements, is devoted to the enunciation of the measures which it is intended to introduce.

After describing briefly to your Excellency the result of the efforts already made by the Porte, I will then make a few observations on the rest of the note.

Two Commissions have visited Erzeroum during the past twelve months. The first, that of Yussuf Pasha, remained for many months at Erzeroum, and examined a large number of cases which the poor and oppressed of both religions, Christian and Mahommedan, brought before them. I think I am correct in saying that none of these cases were decided by the Commissioners. Either their powers were too limited, or they would not incur the responsibility, or they were influenced by private reasons. On their leaving Erzeroum for Van, the cases were handed over to the Tribunals, and have one and all been decided in favour of the rich oppressors, or have been left to be dealt with at a later date, the defendants being allowed meanwhile to return to their homes. This Commission practically accomplished nothing at all. The second, under the Presidency of Baker Pasha, remained at Erzeroum and in the neighbourhood for about six weeks. This Commission had no powers, and left, like the other, without effecting anything.

The separation of the Tribunals from the Executive has not led to any practical result. The same retardation of work and evasion of justice continues, and now without the possibility of interference. Corruption is great and unrestrained. In my despatch of the 12th March, 1880, to Major Trotter, I alluded to the case of a certain Babo Effendi, a Notable of Hassan-Kaleh. Accused of corruption by the Kaïmakam, and compromised by certain papers in the possession of the Vali, by whom they were shown to me, he fled the country in disguise. Both the offences were grave, but there has been no trial, and Babo Effendi is now in his house at Hassan-Kaleh. I know, on the best authority, that he paid £T. 500 to the Government at Erzeroum for his liberty. I mention this particular case to your Excellency, because it will show you that while the separation of the Tribunals from the Executive gives the latter an excuse for non-interference, it does not prevent it from participating in bribery.

With regard to the collection of the taxes, it is only patience, or fear, or the want of coherence between the different factions, that can have prevented the people in the eastern districts from rising to a man against the Government during the last year. Half ruined by the war, and lately reduced to beggary and starvation by the failure of the crops, the unfortunate people have nevertheless been inexorably pursued by the tax-gathers and imprisoned by the authorities when unable to pay, and this notwithstanding that the Government owed many of these same people considerable sums of money for supplies furnished during the war. True it is the Porte ordered this to be paid. Tempted by this order, one or two villages handed in their receipts to the local authorities, and received about one-fifth of the amount due to them.

Both last year and again this year the tithes of the districts of Thortum, Giskin, and Ispir have been bought by a company, members of the Government at Erzeroum. This wheat will be sold in the winter, as it was last year, at exorbitant rates.

The collection of the sheep tax in the present year was a notoriously iniquitous proceeding. Enormous numbers of sheep perished in the spring owing to want of food, but no allowance was made for them.

The blame for this unjust and merciless taxation rests principally with the Supreme Government. The Porte perpetually sends to the Vali for money. The request is passed on to the Mutessarifs, and from the Mutessarifs to the Kaïmakam. The demand is generally accompanied by a threat, that if the money is not forthcoming the official is likely to lose his position, and the latter, perfectly aware of this method of procedure, guards against it by making as much as he can from the people and the Government during his uncertain tenure. To rob the people is no crime, for every man's hand is against them. To rob the Government needs only discretion and money. So long as sufficient payment is made in the right place there is seldom any objection. Now and then an official pushes matters a little too far. He then, if he is wise, gives in his resignation, pays a handsome "bakshish" out of his ill-gotten gains for another appointment in a neighbouring vilayet, and recommences on a new sphere of action.

The concluding lines of this paragraph speak of the appointment to the

gendarmerie of special foreign and native officers. No foreign officer has, as yet, made his appearance in this vilayet; a Turkish officer arrived at Erzeroum early in the spring.

In addition to the great poverty of the Kurdish tribes, caused by the loss of their cattle last winter and the depreciation of the metallic currency, there are three circumstances tending to encourage brigandage which exists at this moment to an unparalleled extent all over the country. Firstly, there are not sufficient police; secondly, there are no good officers; and thirdly, there is collusion between the local authorities and the robbers. As regards the first cause, it is almost needless to remark that if any increase is contemplated money must be forthcoming to pay the men well and regularly. If the officers of the gendarmerie sit quietly in their houses, never leading an expedition or assisting personally in the capture of a brigand, it can hardly be expected that the men will work well. Yet this is precisely the case. Everything is left to the subordinate officers, who, being most irregularly paid, are always ready to accept a bribe, and being, moreover, unsupported by their superiors, are often afraid to capture offenders. The third cause influences them also. It is not likely that a man will risk his life to capture a robber, who will be released from prison two or three weeks after he is taken. This is no uncommon occurrence, for the local Kaïmakam is either a sleeping partner in the business, or lets his prisoner escape for a consideration.

This, your Excellency, is the existing state of things, the real reading of paragraph 2, so far as this vilayet is concerned. But, to fully comprehend the distressing condition of the people in this country, such a description will not suffice. Nothing short of being brought face to face with the evils can give you an adequate idea of it; nothing short of being brought, as we are, in direct contact with the officials, can convince you of their apathy and laziness, of their corruptness, of their utter want of consideration for the welfare of the people, and finally, of the fact that measures are useless unless men can be found who will loyally execute them. I should, therefore, only mislead your Excellency were I to admit, so far as this vilayet is concerned, that the reforms most needed at this moment are those alluded to in the despatch. While the repeated demands of the Porte for money leave the vilayet bankrupt, while the country is over-run with brigands, while every official position is held by corrupt and incapable men who have neither the wish nor the intention to alter the existing state of things, and who nevertheless will be the executors of the measures ordered by the Porte, while the Tribunals are corrupt to the very core, while many districts are filled with refugees, who at this moment are dreading another winter, during which they will again be billeted on the wretched inhabitants to be their curse and scourge, it seems indeed idle to talk of the rearrangement of villages, or even of the introduction of such an excellent measure as an Assize Court.

With reference to the first of these proposals, the reforms sought after are (1) the formation of Communal Councils for the better government of the cazas, and more equal representation of all nationalities in the Government; and (2) the organization of a village police, which, working by communes, and aided by a provincial force, shall establish security throughout the country.

The rearrangement of the villages is the first difficulty to be grappled with, and, in some districts, where Kurds, Yezidis, Turks, and Christians are jumbled up together, it will be very difficult to produce communes whose Councils and police will work harmoniously. In other districts, where many hundred refugees are to be found possessing only tents and no property, the rearrangement cannot be completed until the emigrants are removed. Absorption is not possible.

I will pass over the fact, that the Communal Administrators and Councils are to be chosen for the first time by the Government, though the statement certainly seems to take the very life out of this portion of the proposal. Even supposing that they were elected by the population, I am convinced that no benefit will be conferred upon the Christians. A Christian administrator or member of such a Council will not be more attentively listened to than is a Christian member of the Medjliss at this moment, and complaints forwarded by him of oppression, or even of crime, will be quashed, as now, by the first Mussulman authority into whose hands it falls. The powers of the administrators being as yet undefined, it is not possible for me to conjecture how far their rule may influence the commune.

The creation of a local police force, working together by brigades for the security of the commune, is, where the villages are mixed, a conception which can never be realized while there is such bitter animosity between the races. But, even under the

most favourable conditions, there comes in the two important questions of officers and pay. The Porte has neither officered nor paid properly the existing force. From whence are these items to be obtained for the communal brigades and the provincial gendarmerie?

How this arrangement is to be the means of increasing the number of schools, of introducing changes in agriculture, and of mending the roads, will probably become apparent so soon as more minute details are published.

The second proposal is a good one so far as it goes, and should, if properly worked, do away with the evil mentioned in the note. But I may observe that, if the poor could obtain speedy justice, or indeed, any justice at all, when they appear before the Sedentary Courts, there would not be much objection, either on the part of prosecutors or witnesses, to go the distance. Country people occupied with the pursuits of husbandry, which, in this country, cannot be delayed, naturally think twice before they take the trouble to proceed to the capital of their province, where they will be detained for months, and at the end be certain to lose their cases, unless they have the wherewithal to pay the necessary bribes.

The statement, that capable and honest men, without distinction of religion, have been admitted to public functions, is true in this vilayet to the following extent: the appointment of "Sous-Procureur-Général" at the chief towns of the sandjaks and at the capital are given to Christians; so also are a proportion of the memberships in the Councils throughout the vilayet, but the holders possess no influence whatever. With regard to honesty, I do not believe there are any strictly honest men on the Executive. There was one capable man in this vilayet, a man whose energy and justice made him beloved in his district for the short time during which he was allowed to rule it. I refer to Mehemet Ali Bey, late Kaïmakam of Keghi, who was called up to Erzeroum to answer to charges which were never proved against him, and detained under false pretences until he was superseded.

It is with great pleasure that I read of the intentions of the Government with regard to public works. The road from Baiburt to Erzeroum, the only made road in the vilayet, has been allowed to go to ruin, and unless speedy repairs are made will degenerate into an ordinary country road. The public buildings, barracks, hospitals, &c., are in an equally dilapidated condition. Lunatic asylums and orphanages are not known.

That exaggerated statements of crimes committed are often brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Consuls is perfectly true. These exaggerations are often made in the effort to produce an interest. The utter disregard for truth to be found among all classes and creeds, with the exception of the Armenian Protestants, and their inability to tell a straightforward story, makes it often a difficult matter to get to the bottom of an alleged injustice, but, as it is the duty of Her Majesty's Consuls to be at all times strictly impartial, such exaggerated statements do not affect their Reports, all cases being carefully examined before they appear therein.

In conclusion, I will repeat that, however good these measures may be, without honest and capable men to execute them they are quite useless, and such men certainly do not exist at this moment in the country.

Your Excellency will have understood from what I have written how entirely the efforts hitherto made by the Porte have failed. This failure is due partially to incapability on the part of the executors, but far more to a stubborn spirit of resistance to all reform which pervades the whole of the official class. These gentlemen know well enough that if any real reformation is to be made in this country they would either be compelled to honesty, or be permanently retired from the positions they now occupy. Struggling for existence they will, by wilful mismanagement, either render every attempt at reform abortive, or make it merely a fresh means of extorting money from the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 149.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 437.) *Therapia, October 8, 1880.*

My Lord,

MR. GILBERTSON, the Acting British Vice-Consul at Ghemlek, reported to Consul-General Fawcett in July last a case of abduction and sale near Broussa, of

which two young Mussulman girls had been the victims. I communicated this report to Colonel Wilson, who directed Major Warlow to inquire into the matter. I have now the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Major Warlow, stating that the children have been recovered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN

Inclosure in No. 149.

Major Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 17.) *Brousse, September 27, 1880.*

Sir,

WITH reference to despatch marginally noted,* I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the two children who were kidnapped and sold have been recovered, and are now in charge of a Turkish official, as his Excellency Vali Ahmed Vefyk is unwilling to restore them to their mother, who was, he tells me, a party to their sale.

2. The Chief of Police, Shani Bey, who purchased the children, has, for this and other misdeeds, been dismissed by his Excellency Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, and the outlaw, Kidir Bey, who was the actual kidnapper, has been killed in an encounter with the police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 150.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 444.) *Therapia, October 8, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 279 of the 23rd August last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reports that the Vali of that province has received instructions from the Porte to issue to the Laz emigrants at Hepsamanie rations of bread, and to keep the produce of the tithe for their use.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 151.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 446.) *Constantinople, October 9, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna on the subject of brigandage in the Vilayet of Aidin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Consul Dennis to Mr. Goschen.

Smyrna, September 24, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to call your Excellency's attention to the lamentable insecurity now existing in this vilayet. Not that this province has enjoyed a satisfactory state of security at any period during the twelvemonth I have had the honour to hold this Consulate, but it is at present in a more deplorable condition than ever.

* From Mr. E. Gilbertson, Acting Vice-Consul, Ghemlek, to Consul-General Fawcett, No. 3, dated July 13, 1880.

This is in a great measure owing to the insufficient police force at the command of the authorities. Our late excellent Vali, Hamdi Pasha, answered all my complaints on this subject by informing me that he was fully alive to the evil, and had applied again and again to the Porte for a larger police force, but with no effect, the answer being that he had quite sufficient men; and on one occasion he was even ordered to send elsewhere a large portion of the force he had already at command. On my first interview with our present enlightened Vali, he stated that his earliest object would be to establish an efficient gendarmerie, without which there could be no adequate security for life or property in the province. Notwithstanding his good intentions, his endeavours have failed. He has urged this important measure on the Porte with all the energy in his power, but to no purpose; his applications for assistance to form such a police force are either left unanswered, or meet with a decided refusal, and he consequently feels himself powerless to place the security of the province on a satisfactory footing; he nevertheless neglects no measure that may be in his power to remedy the evil, of which I shall presently cite an instance in proof.

The consequence of thus cramping the power of the Governor-General is apparent in the increase of acts of violence, both in the town and in the country. The villages and farms are constantly threatened by brigands and robbers; the highways swarm with bad characters, ready to avail themselves of any opportunity of robbery; the streets with pickpockets, footpads, and burglars; and all, from the impunity they enjoy, are emboldened to commit acts of ever increasing audacity. A notable instance of this occurred on the 21st instant at the village of Nahr-li-keui, 1½ mile beyond Bournabat.

In my despatch No. 32 of the 4th June last, I had the honour to report to your Excellency that Bournabat was threatened by two bands of brigands, one of six, the other of seventeen men, who were supposed to be seeking an opportunity of carrying off some of the wealthy inhabitants of that village, in order to extort a heavy ransom. Whether the malefactors of whom I have now to speak were the same individuals or not has not been ascertained, but there appear to have been fourteen or fifteen of them, half of whom remained outside the garden walls, while seven of them attacked the house of M. Ormes Aktchali, an Armenian gentleman, residing in the village of Nahr-li-keui. At 6 in the evening they knocked at the garden-gate, and when it was opened by M. Aktchali, they rushed in and cut him down with their yataghans, leaving him dead on the spot covered with wounds. When his daughter rushed out at his screams, they threw her down, beat her brutally with the butt-end of a musket, gagged her, and one or more of them sat on her prostrate body, while the rest proceeded to ransack the house. The man-servant was also shot through the knee. The lady of the house, who was ill in bed, was not injured by them, but learning from her where the valuables were kept, they seized the iron box or safe, which required four men to lift it, and coolly carried it off to the neighbouring mountains, broke it open, cleared it of the cash and jewellery, and set fire to all the bills and obligations it contained. This daring act was committed before dark, in the midst of the village, and in defiance of the local authorities, who were unable to make any attempt to capture the miscreants. I should state that these were dressed as Zebecs, or Turkish mountaineers, yet, as they had blackened their faces to avoid recognition, it is believed that their dress was but a disguise, and that they were in reality Greeks.

So audacious an outrage as this has naturally created great alarm throughout the Christian community here, especially among the British residents, many of whom have villas at Bournabat, and who feel that they are at the mercy of these wretches, as the authorities can afford them no adequate protection, and yet refuse to allow them to form and maintain a local constabulary at their own expense.

I have the honour to inclose an account of this outrage, given by a local paper, which I believe is in the main correct.

No clue has yet been found to these miscreants. As a set-off, however, to this success on their part, I have the pleasure to record an event which is of still more recent occurrence. Another band of fifteen brigands has, for months past, infested the coast between Smyrna and Ephesus, and is supposed to have been composed in part of the pirates who sailed from the Piræus on the 17th May last, and committed the outrages at Ak-keui and elsewhere on the coast south of Scala Nuova, as reported in my despatches No. 29 of the 28th May, No. 30 of the 29th May, and No. 31 of the 2nd June. This band is believed to have separated into two. The larger half, of eight individuals, has now happily been destroyed in an encounter with the police.

A short time since this band captured the son of a Turkish proprietor inhabiting one of the villages of this district, and, as the father was supposed to be wealthy, they

demanded £ T. 5,000 for the ransom. The father offered £ T. 1,000 as the utmost he could scrape together, but this sum was rejected by the brigands as insufficient, and the original amount demanded was insisted on. The father thereon, perceiving that there was no chance of saving his son's life by negotiation, applied to the Governor-General, in the hope of at least avenging himself on the brigands, who thus compelled him to sacrifice his son. The Vali immediately dispatched a force of seven zaptiehs, under Suleyman Agha, the second in command of the police force in this vilayet, guided by some peasants, who knew the spot which the brigands had made their lair. They first encountered one of the band alone, and shot him down. Yesterday morning they fell in with the rest, who were concealed in a mountain gorge, a few miles above Seydi-keui, and, after a contest which lasted fully two hours, they succeeded in destroying the remaining seven, though not without the loss on their side of one zaptieh killed and another wounded; also of two peasants who had served as guides to the police, and were shot by the brigands. The poor Turkish boy did not escape, for they found him lashed to a tree with a bullet through his head, the brigands having dispatched him on perceiving the approach of the force.

The heads of the seven brigands were brought to Smyrna yesterday, and publicly exhibited in front of the Governor's Palace for recognition. They remained there for some hours, and were seen by several British residents. They were all believed to be Greeks or of Greek race. One of these English gentlemen informs me that on one of the bodies was found a passport, given to the bearer in Athens, "Good for Asia Minor, travelling for his affairs," and the name corresponds with that of one of the individuals in the list of pirates which I inclosed in my despatch No. 48 of the 23rd ultimo, not one of whom, up to the date of that despatch, had been captured or destroyed.

I have the honour to inclose an account of this encounter, extracted from the same local paper, which differs in some unimportant particulars from my own.

So successful an encounter with brigands is almost without precedent in this land, where a portion of the band attacked by the police almost always contrives to escape capture or destruction. The result now achieved redounds greatly to the credit of the Governor-General, who is evidently determined to make the most of the small means at his disposal for the suppression of brigandage, as well as to that of Suleiman Aga, who has already distinguished himself on many occasions by his courage and energy when in command of the zaptiehs of Magnesia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 152.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 448.) *Constantinople, October 11, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a statistical Table of the population of the Vilayet of Adana, which has been furnished to me by the Armenian Patriarch. I also inclose a memorandum by Colonel Wilson on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 152.

Monsignor Nercès to Mr. Goschen.

Excellence, *Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le* 21 Août / 2 Septembre 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de vous envoyer un Tableau comparatif de statisque des habitants mixtes du Vilayet d'Adana. Je ne crois pas que ça soit une statisque complète, mais d'ici un mois je puis vous en offrir une plus parfaite.

Je prie, &c.
Patriarche des Arméniens,
(Signé) NERCÈS.

Nombre approximatif des habitants du Vilayet d'Adana.

Sandjak.	Turcs, Islams.	Tchoulles, Renégats.	Avchar, Renégats.	Turcomans, Islam.	Grecs.	Arméniens.	Total.
Adana	10,000	50,000	36,000	..	4,000	45,000	145,000
Sidevgué	5,000	12,000	10,000	3,000	10,000	20,000	60,000
Payasse	3,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	..	15,000	35,000
Kilissan	5,000	15,000	15,000	5,000	..	40,000	80,000
	23,000	84,000	66,000	13,000	14,000	120,000	320,000

J'ai mis au minimum les chiffres des Arméniens, et au maximum ceux des autres communautés.

Le Patriarche Arménien,
(Signé) NERCÈS.

Le 3 Septembre, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 152.

Memorandum on Armenian Patriarch's Estimate of Population of Adana Vilayet.

CAPTAIN COOPER, late Vice-Consul at Adana, in a Report to Lord Tenterden, gives the population of the vilayet as :—

Moslems (by doubling males)	327,980
Christians	33,780

The Patriarchs' numbers are :—

Moslems	180,000
Christians	134,000

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Constantinople, September 7, 1880.

No. 153.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 450.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Aleppo with regard to threatened disturbances among the Arabs in the Aleppo and Damascus districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 153.

M. Catoni to Earl Granville.

Alep, *le* 23 *Septembre*, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence "à titre d'information," que m'étant trouvé en visite dernièrement chez Djamil Pacha, Commandant Militaire de la Place d'Alep, j'ai eu occasion d'apprendre que le Muchir de Damas lui avait écrit d'avoir été informé que les tribus Arabes de "Harassa," "Hadidi," "Mouali," et "Leheb," du district d'Alep, se disposaient d'aller attaquer la "d'Ebn-Schalan" du district de Damas. Il l'invitait en conséquence de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher ce conflit.

J'ai pu savoir, également, que Djamil Pacha a répondu au "Muchir" qu'il aurait fait tout son possible de prévenir une pareille attaque, mais qu'en cas de résistance armée de la part des Arabes de son ressort, il ne possédait pas assez de forces dans le désert pour les repousser.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) A. CATONI.

No. 154.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 456.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 12, 1880.

I HAD the honour to state to your Lordship some weeks ago that I proposed recapitulating in a note to the Porte all the more salient instances of Turkish misrule which have been reported by Her Majesty's Consular Agents in Asia Minor, with the object of proving how signally the Ottoman Government have failed to redeem their solemn engagements to introduce reforms.

With this view I invited the assistance of Colonel Wilson and Major Trotter.

The latter, in reply to this invitation, has addressed to me the despatch and memorandum inclosed herewith in original, which exhibit in very striking colours the deep-seated evils which have to be cured, and the almost helpless problems which will have to be solved before any improvement can be looked for.

The Porte must be fully aware of the state of things described. Denials are constantly given in official documents as to the loud and deep complaints which are brought to the notice of the Porte, but many intelligent Turks acknowledge the menacing character of the evils which the extraordinary apathy of their Government allows to continue unchecked.

When the extent of these evils is considered, it becomes at once apparent how vain it is to hope that simple remonstrances on isolated cases of misgovernment are likely to have much effect.

I have further the honour to inclose a report from Vice-Consul Captain Stewart on the Courts in the Vilayet of Konieh, and his despatch inclosing the Report.

Your Lordship will observe that Captain Stewart requests me to use my influence in getting Tahyr Bey, the President of the Criminal Division of the Court, and two other functionaries of the same Court, removed, and incapacitated from further employment.

I have consulted with Colonel Wilson with regard to this request. He is very doubtful how far it would be expedient to interfere, unless there is a very well-founded hope that such interference would be successful. Failure in this case would, he thinks, be compromising to Captain Stewart's position and future influence, and your Lordship is aware how doubtful it is whether remonstrances will succeed.

On the other hand, I may possibly think it expedient to make a test case of this instance where the evidence seems more than usually tangible.

I will not fail to inform your Lordship of the proceedings which I may ultimately take.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Major Trotter to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 40.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October* 2, 1880.

IN compliance with instructions received verbally from your Excellency, I have the honour to submit a memorandum showing the urgent need of early measures being taken for the reform of the Government in the provinces within my Consular jurisdiction.

It is obvious that the first thing necessary is a change of *personnel* in the Governors of provinces. Aziz Pasha, Governor of Kharput, is, in my opinion, the only Vali who is the right man in the right place; but the substitution of good Governors for bad ones will be of little use unless the former be invested with considerably increased powers, and be allowed to retain a fair share of the revenue for the better administration of the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

Memorandum.

BY the Convention of the 4th June, 1878, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan promised to England "d'introduire les réformes nécessaires (à être arrêtées plus tard par les deux Puissances) ayant trait à la bonne administration et à la protection des sujets Chrétiens et autres de la Sublime Porte qui se trouvent dans les territoires en Asie de Sa Majesté."

And again in the Berlin Treaty on the 13th July, 1878, "La Sublime Porte s'engage à réaliser sans plus de retard les améliorations et les réformes qu'exigent les besoins locaux dans les provinces habités par les Arméniens et à garantir leur sécurité contre les Circasssiens et les Kurdes. Elle donnera connaissance périodiquement des mesures prises à cet effet aux Puissances qui en surveilleront l'exécution."

Considerably more than two years have elapsed since those promises were made, and the Porte can but admit that in those two years no substantial progress has been made in the work of reform.

It must be freely admitted that the Porte has had extraordinary difficulties to contend with. At the close of a disastrous war the Government lost much of its prestige, and was left ruinously in debt and with an empty treasury. Political difficulties in Europe have engrossed much of its time and attention, and to crown all, many of the frontier provinces have been afflicted by the grievous scourge of famine.

It is desirable to glance briefly at the state of the frontier provinces since the close of the last war. The evacuation of Erzeroum by the Russians was effected without disturbance in September 1878.

In the same month an insurrection broke out amongst the Deyrsim Kurds, who occupy the mountainous country south of Erzinjan. After gaining some successes against Turkish detachments, the rebels, who could probably muster in all about 5,000 fighting men, were blockaded in their mountain fastnesses by 24 battalions of Nizams and Redifs. Winter put an end to active operations, but 7 battalions of infantry were quartered during the winter months in positions at the foot of the mountains. Military operations were renewed in the spring, and at one time as many as 30 battalions were employed under the orders of Dervisch Pasha in Deyrsim and its neighbourhood. Most of the insurgent Chiefs submitted, but some few who dwelt in very inaccessible positions held out, and are, I believe, to this day unsubdued. The country is still disaffected, and soldiers are unable to move through it singly and in small numbers for fear of being massacred by the inhabitants, nearly the whole of whom are Kizilbash Kurds. During the last winter, on one occasion, a party of six soldiers were enticed from cantonments and killed. Strong detachments of troops have still to be located in the neighbourhood in order to prevent the Deyrsimlis, who are notorious robbers, from plundering the country in the vicinity of their mountain homes. Another insurrection broke out in the autumn of 1878 in the Bohtan district, in the east of the Diarbekir Vilayet, headed by the Kurdish Chiefs, Hussein and Osman Beys, sons of the famous Bedr Khan Pasha,* who forty years ago reigned almost supreme in that part of Kurdistan. The movement assumed considerable importance. At one period some 6,000 rebels were under arms. They seized the important position of Djezireh on the Tigris, but the Wali of Diarbekir, Abdul Rahman Pasha,† acted with considerable energy. Several battalions of regulars were got together, and some loyally disposed Kurdish Chiefs were summoned to join the Imperial troops. Their united forces proved too much for the insurgents, who, after a severe defeat, melted away, the rebel Chiefs surrendering themselves to the Imperial clemency in December 1878.

In the summer of 1879 the Modki Kurds, who inhabit the mountains west of Bitlis and south of Mush, were in insurrection. Some of the principal Chiefs were fighting amongst themselves; many persons were killed, and troops had to be employed against them; but the movement never assumed any great importance.

In the autumn of the same year Moussa Agha, a Chief of the Haideranli Kurds, at the head of several hundred horsemen, destroyed several Kurdish villages in the Abagai district, south of Bayazid, with the object of compelling the inhabitants to emigrate with him to Persia. He subsequently gave in his submission to Samih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Corps d'Armée, who had been sent to Van from Constantinople charged with the suppression of another revolt that broke out

* Famous for his massacre of the Nestorian Christians in 1843.
† Now Vali of Bagdad.

about the same time under the famous Sheikh Ubeydullah. Moussa Agha was rewarded for his misconduct by being named Mudir or Chief of the Abagai district.

Prior to the arrival of Samih Pasha at Van an insurrectionary movement in the south-east of the Vilayet of Van, instigated by Sheikh Ubeydullah, had come to a head and collapsed. The insurgents, who were said to number about 4,000, were commanded by one of the Sheikh's sons, and had two encounters with the Imperial troops, in the first of which the rebels were successful and took prisoners about 100 regular soldiers. Being beaten in the second fight, and finding that several influential Kurdish Chiefs had declared against him, the Sheikh, who had all along been temporizing with the Government, finally gave in his submission, and was rewarded by the Sultan conferring on him a high decoration and other marks of favour; whilst, *per contra*, one district Governor was dismissed from his post for having acted energetically against the rebels, and thereby incurred the displeasure of the Sheikh. The Sheikh promised Samih Pasha that he would visit the Sultan at Constantinople in the spring of 1880, but had never done so, and he is, there is no doubt whatever, merely watching his opportunity again to set up the standard of revolt and declare himself the Ruler of Kurdistan. Had it not been for the famine which has ravaged that part of the country during the past summer, he would probably ere this have carried out his intention. His influence is so great that at the present moment the people, both Christian and Kurd, within a radius of many miles of his residence, pay their taxes, not to the Sultan, but to the Sheikh, and by doing so they obtain the Sheikh's protection from the ravages of the neighbouring Persian and other Kurdish tribes—a protection which the Imperial Government is unable to afford its own subjects.

Besides the above insurrectionary movements, which in three cases at least were serious attempts to throw off the yoke of the Ottoman Government, there have been, and still continue, in various parts of the country, serious disturbances and anarchy, brought about by the feebleness of the administration and the incompetence and criminal apathy of those who are entrusted by the Sultan with the government of his provinces. Foremost in importance among these come the raids of the frontier Kurds. While at Van this last summer, I was informed that during the spring fourteen villages near the frontier, two of them Christian and the remainder Kurdish, had been robbed of their flocks and herds by the Shekaks, a large tribe numbering at least 500 tents, some of whom are to be found in Turkish and some in Persian territory. One Christian village (Hospistan) was plundered while I was at Van. A few days later on while passing to Erzeroum I learned that several Kurdish villages in Abagai, south of Bayazid, had a week previously been plundered by the Djelalis, a famous robber tribe, who like the Shekaks occupy both sides of the border.

Considering that Samih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Corps d'Armée, has been at Van for nearly a whole year, it will hardly be believed, what is nevertheless reported to me from Van, that about a month ago the Shekaks plundered some villages, one of which was fifteen miles only from the city of Van, and that the Djelalis, after having plundered some Kurdish and Yezidi villages in the Abagai district, were, it was reported, threatening the town of Bayazid. But it is not only on the frontier districts that anarchy has prevailed, and still prevails. In spring last year several bloody fights, attended with considerable loss of life, occurred between Milli Kurds, Karagetchis, and Arabs on the borders of the desert near Diarbekir, and early in the present year some of the Shammar Arabs were for a time in arms against the Government. In many parts of Malatia, the western subdivision of the Diarbekir Vilayet, the authority of the Government is laughed at; only a few weeks ago at Adiaman some disaffected Kurds in that province attacked a small detachment of soldiers and killed two of them; last May some twenty lives were lost in a fight between two antagonistic Kurdish tribes. At Deyrik, two days to the south of Diarbekir, acts of lawlessness, including murders and robberies, frequently occurred during last spring, and the people were urgently imploring me for help. At Haini, a large village two days north of Diarbekir, lynch law was executed on a Moslem Notable, and the murdered man's head was publicly dragged round the mosque and afterwards carried into Diarbekir, where Izzet Pasha, one of the most incompetent of Valis, is still permitted to misrule the Sultan's subjects. My latest accounts from that vilayet state that in several districts* the authority of the Government is almost *nil*; the Kurds come down from the mountains and plunder the newly reaped corn, and outrages continually occur. In Hazro, I am informed there are many villages whose inhabitants pay no taxes whatever to the Government.

* Hazro, Farkin, and Lijeh.

In the Modkan district, near Mush, the inhabitants also pay no taxes. The districts of Shemdina, Jelu, and Oramar, in the south-east portion of the Van Vilayet, and the Nestorian districts of Tiyari and Tchorm, are, I believe, in the same state.

This almost chronic state of partial insurrection and rebellion in some part or another of the frontier provinces is attended with the most deplorable consequences, both to the Government and to its subject populations.

Of the loss to the Government I will only allude to the gradual impoverishment of the country, to the great diminution of revenue, and the enormously increased expenditure which results in inability to pay either the civil employés or the military, the natural consequences of which are extortion, robbery, and oppression, and increased detestation of the Government on the part of all classes of the population.

As regards the people, they suffer in a variety of ways. For instance, in the revolt of Bader Khan's sons in Bohtan, *inter alia*, I find that while the troops were marching through Bitlis to quell the revolt, such outrages were committed that for several successive days all the Christian shops had to be closed. Again, at the unfortunate Christian village of Dehé, which had been in the hands of the rebels for seventeen days, the inhabitants had not only to feed for all that period the rebel host, but when the latter were driven out the village was plundered by the Government troops and their Kurdish allies of nearly everything they possessed, women were violated, &c., ... , and although a Commission of Inquiry subsequently decided that the losses of the inhabitants should be made good by the Government, I have never heard that this righteous intention was carried out.

Again, at the time of Sheikh Ubeydullah's rebellion, it was officially reported that twelve Christian and Kurdish villages in Gevver were pillaged by the rebels, bodies of whom were overrunning the district, robbing and spoiling the inhabitants, Moslems and Christians alike, while the Sheikh, on the other hand, maintained that the Imperial troops, while collecting taxes, had plundered and burned several villages, had killed many of their inhabitants, and violated the women. In the Deyrsim rebellion, before alluded to, no quarter was given to the Imperial troops and very little to the foe.

The constant moving of troops to and fro for the purpose of suppressing rebellions and disturbances is a great cause of suffering to the inhabitants. I have often passed villages which evidently had once been of much greater extent, and on asking the cause of the falling off, have been told it was because they had the misfortune to be on or near the high road, so that what in most countries is a source of profit is here a cause of ruin.

Small parties of soldiers passing along have generally to be fed gratis by the inhabitants, who are maltreated if they do not supply what is necessary. One cannot blame the soldiers, who must act thus or starve; but one can and must blame the Government which allows such things to happen. I have known a case in the Diarbekir Vilayet, where the inhabitants of a village have given everything that was wanted for the night for a detachment of cavalry, and have then gone to the soldiers, money in hand, to offer them a bribe to depart in the morning, and leave the villagers in peace. In the same way, civil officials and zaptiehs, when travelling for the purpose of collecting taxes, &c., almost always live upon the villagers, who dare not complain to the higher authorities, from whom they would get no redress. This is, to my mind, one of the most crying grievances under which the country labours.

Christian villages are generally worse off than Moslem ones, as they are generally richer and have larger and better stores of grain and straw, and may in many cases be dispossessed with greater impunity. I have often heard villagers complain that when troops come to suppress disturbances amongst the Kurds they were a worse curse than the Kurds, from whom they came to protect them.

Having now dwelt at considerable length on some of the more important insurrectionary movements of the last two years, with a glance at some of the immediately resulting evils, it is necessary to allude to the general insecurity of life and property.

As a rule, the large cities are comparatively well off in this respect; yet during the last summer disgraceful riots occurred both at Diarbekir and Mardin, at each of which places three lives were lost. As to the roads, a numerous well-armed party of travellers is generally safe, and in some parts of the country, such as the main roads in the neighbourhood of Kharput and Erzinjan, even small parties of unarmed persons may travel without fear; but, taking it all in all, it may safely be asserted that there are few parts of the country where it is safe for small unarmed caravans to travel alone. The recent famine has naturally augmented this evil by adding largely to the class who have no means of getting an honest livelihood, and I must confess

that with the insufficient and inefficient existing gendarmerie, I often wonder that more robberies and murders do not occur.

I attribute to exceptional causes the stoppage of the navigation of the Tigris between Diarbekir and Mosul this last spring, and the plundering of numerous rafts of grain by large bands of armed Kurds; but it was, nevertheless, a great disgrace to the Diarbekir Vali that the nuisance continued for several weeks before efficient measures were taken to stop it.

This summer, within the space of ten days, three separate persons coming from Mardin to my house in Diarbekir were robbed on the high road.

To show the need of urgent reform in this direction, I quote letters recently received from the Vice-Consuls at Van and Erzeroum.

The former says: "Wherever I go the same complaints reach me, that the peasantry are never safe, day or night, from the incursions and robberies, or worse, of their Kurdish neighbours;" and he gives a list of outrages that had been brought to his notice as having occurred within the preceding four months, comprising 11 murders, 1 abduction and forcible conversion of a woman to Islamism, 20 villages plundered of the whole or part of their flocks and herds, 4 highway robberies, the plunder of several mills, and the robbery of cattle sent to the districts by the Armenian Relief Committee.

From Erzeroum it is stated by Captain Everett, with reference to the east and south-east portions of the vilayet, that in every district through which he travelled robbery, often accompanied by murder, is being extensively practised by Kurds and Circassians, and that the life of no unescorted traveller is safe. Night after night the crops of the villagers are carried off, and in some cases hay-ricks are burned.

From Diarbekir I have similar accounts; that the half-famished Kurds descend from the mountains, and plunder the corn-fields at night.

The general state of insecurity of the public highways is chiefly due to the want of good energetic officials and an efficient gendarmerie.

We have now to consider the state of the peasantry, the stay-at-home people, who form the vast mass of the country population. In the frontier districts we have shown that their villages are liable to be plundered by the nomad Kurds, and their flocks and herds carried off, and that in many parts of the country they are liable to have their flocks and their crops carried off by incursions from Kurds from the mountains; but in many parts of the country the rayahs suffer terribly from the oppression of the local Beys and Aghas. As a rule, the further a country is from the seat of the Local Government, and the more inaccessible its position, the more surely are the rayahs, both Christian and Moslem, at the mercy of the local Chiefs, who may, if so disposed, deal with them pretty well as they like, without fear of the consequences. As a result of this, complaints constantly flow in from the provinces of the illegal acts and exactions of the local Notables, who, in many cases, imprison and otherwise maltreat the unfortunate peasant, employ him on forced labour, and take from him his land and other produce of his toil. In other places the villagers pay taxes, not only to the Government, but also to the neighbouring magnates or to the tribal Kurds; and in some very remote parts of the country, such as Sasun, in the Modki district, the Christian peasant is said to be bought and sold, a fixed large percentage of his earnings, wherever he may be, going to his proprietor, who maintains hold over his slave by keeping his family as hostages.

It is owing to the absence or feebleness of the Government that such things are permitted to happen; and, owing to the influence of the local Chiefs and the universal corruption of the local Courts, it is impossible to bring the offenders to justice, as has been clearly shown in the Erzeroum Vilayet in the notorious Keghi cases, where not even the influence of the Imperial Reform Commissioners, backed up by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople (and I believe supported even by an order from the Sultan himself in favour of the peasants), could prevent a most glaring evasion of justice. The Beys have returned to their homes, and are recommencing their evil practices.

That the Government is aware of the truth of these statements is abundantly proved by the action of Abeddin Pasha when Reform Commissioner in Diarbekir.

With the sanction of the Government, he there sent into exile more than 100 Beys and Chiefs from the Vilayet of Diarbekir alone, being convinced of the impossibility, however guilty they might be, of getting these men condemned by the local Tribunals.

During the year that these men were absent in exile comparative tranquillity and quiet reigned in their districts, which were formerly noted for disorder and violence;

but within the last few months many of the worst of them have escaped from confinement at Aleppo and Sivas, and in consequence complaints have again begun to flow in of deeds of violence. One of the most glaring cases has been that of Mouste Kutto, Chief of the Rajkotanly tribe, now residing in the Saub district, who was convicted last year at Diarbekir of having on a former occasion put to death in cold blood no less than forty-two persons in one day; he was actually condemned to death, but was taken to Sivas as a political prisoner, whence, with several others, he made his escape some months ago, and returned to his tribe, where he was received with feasting and rejoicings; and I understand the Government dare not attempt his rearrest.

Again, just before I left Erzeroum, four noted characters, who were sentenced to death more than a year ago for the Khodoorchoor outrage, managed to escape from prison; and, only a few weeks before, a noted Chief, Umer Agha, who had been sentenced by the Porte to exile, escaped from the same prison and returned to his home in Gönig, where he successfully resisted the endeavours of the authorities to rearrest him. In the same district live two noted outlaws, who dwell in a village on the Erzeroum, Diarbekir road, and who have for two years past successfully resisted all the efforts of the Erzeroum Governor to effect their capture.

Of the heavy and direct losses experienced by the Government from the dishonesty of their own officials, of tax-gatherers who cheat both the Government and the peasant for their own benefit, of the serious peculations and embezzlements that have been brought to light on the part of custom-house officers, police officers, defterdars, and others, I will not now write. Of the depth and extent of the general corruption that exists I will take no note, knowing full well that the Ministers of the Sultan are probably better informed on the subject than I am myself.

I have exposed some of the disorders that exist from maladministration by incompetent Governors, and I will close this memorandum by a few remarks on the famine.

The famine, I must admit, could not possibly have been prevented in the impoverished condition of the Imperial Treasury, but its fearful evils have undoubtedly been aggravated by the apathy and *insouciance* of some of the Governors of provinces —who will fully shut their eyes to the calamities around them, in order that they may report to the Central Government that the districts confided to their care are in a flourishing condition, as well as by the heartless zeal shown in some instances by subordinate officials (notably by the present Mutessarif of Bayazid) in racking from the half-starving peasants arrears of taxation, payment of which would deprive them of all means of subsistence.

I have known of a Kaïmakam who, on being asked to show mercy towards the unfortunate peasants, replied, "What can I do? I have received written orders from my superiors that if I do not furnish a certain fixed sum on a certain day I shall be held personally responsible, not only for the sum itself, but for the interest on all arrears." The drain of money to Constantinople is sapping the life-blood of the Empire.

The result of the famine has been that (within my Consular district) at least 10,000 persons have perished of hunger in the Bashkaleh district, and probably from 2,000 to 3,000 in the districts about Bayazid and Alashgerd; the same number or more (I have no means of forming even a rough estimate) in Midyad, Bohtan, and Djezireh, besides which several hundreds have perished by the roadside while flying from their villages in search of food.

Where Governors are incapable of governing well in ordinary times they are naturally still more unfit to deal with such a crisis as famine, and to save themselves trouble and annoyance they try to ignore as far as possible its existence and intent. It is extremely desirable that before the winter sets in and renders travelling impracticable, good competent Governors be sent to Diarbekir, Van, and Erzeroum—if, indeed, such can be found—men who will have some sympathy with the inhabitants, and who have zeal and ability to work for their good.

From all the accounts I receive there is every probability of even greater distress during the ensuing winter and spring than in the last, although it will be more localized and over a smaller area; the price of grain is very high, and there are many families who, having sold their all to keep themselves alive up to the present time, have nothing left to provide for the forthcoming year. In most parts of the country the harvest has been good; but in very many districts where the famine raged last year, and there was little or no grain sown, the scarcity and suffering during the approaching year will be worse than ever.

The districts where the worst is anticipated are the Bashkaleh, Bayazid, and Mardin Sandjaks, in the Vilayets of Van, Erzeroum, and Diarbekir respectively.

It is in the interests of the Turkish Government itself, as much as in that of its subject races, that reform should be taken in hand without further delay.

The state of the country is growing worse and worse; from many parts emigration on a considerable scale is taking place. Many families of Greeks and Armenians have gone to Russian territory, and although these have been much more than replaced by the Moslem counter-emigration from the recently annexed provinces, yet the country generally gets poorer year by year in a rapidly increasing ratio.

The large mortality and distress due to famine has, as I have before mentioned, been increased by misgovernment; trade is generally at a standstill, owing partly to the insecurity of the roads and partly to want of confidence in the Government and in the future. The Turkish Government, through the incompetence and worse of its provincial Governors, and by its own action in a variety of ways, has entirely alienated the affection and respect of all classes of the population.

The want of security for life and property; the impossibility of obtaining justice; the unjust financial decrees of the Government, which, by the successive suppression of caimé, beshlik, and copper currencies have ruined thousands of formerly well-to-do people, and has disseminated mistrust everywhere; the constant drain to the Palace and to the capital of money which is urgently wanted for the provinces, and the consequent non-payment of salaries to its own employés and of pay to soldiers and zaptiehs; the unchecked robberies and oppressions of the Kurds; the tyranny exercised in many places by the local Beys and Aghas; the constant liability to outrages and excesses, both on the part of Kurdish insurgents and of the military; the quartering of soldiers and zaptiehs on the village populations; the entire absence of all sympathy for its suffering subjects; and last, but not least, the almost universal dishonesty and corruption of Government officials, of Medjliss members, and of Judges; in fact of all employés, from the highest to the lowest; these causes have all combined to render the Government at Constantinople disliked and despised, by Turk and Christian, by Arab and by Kurd, and unless some remedy be soon applied, I cannot believe that the people will much longer submit to the rule of a Government which does nothing for its subjects but bleed them and otherwise maltreat them.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major.*

Constantinople, October 2, 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 154.

Vice-Consul Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 22. Political.)

Konia, September 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Excellency my Reports on the Courts of this vilayet.

I would urgently beg to draw your Excellency's attention to that portion of it dealing with the Criminal Division Behiyet Court, and to beg you will kindly use your influence in getting the President of the Court, Tahyr Bey, his brother-in-law, the Muadin of the Court, Ahmed Effendi, and his former General, Abdulla Effendi, now acting Mustantik for the Court, removed and incapacitated for further employment. I have people here ready to prove the swindle that occurred when Tahyr Bey was Eskeff-Nazir, besides which it must be a matter well known to the authorities at Constantinople. Besides the above swindle, the list of cases I forward, and which I firmly believe to be true and capable of proof before any fair Court, amply proves how unfit he and his gang are for their present or any other posts.

I have considered it advisable not to take any action in the matter here. Such is the influence of father and son, and so greatly are they feared by even the highest officials, that I am persuaded any efforts on my part would be fruitless.

I inclose some of the original petitions I have received with reference to this Court. Having no qualified interpreter, I thought it better to send them in the original.

I can hardly think that the Turkish Government would desire to retain such a man as the President with his gang in the public service.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. STEWART.

Inclosure 4 in No. 154.

Report on the Courts of the Konia Vilayet.

OF the Courts both here and throughout the province I am unable to give a favourable opinion. That the present Mufettish or Inspector of the Courts has effected some slight improvement is generally acknowledged, but even with the best intentions he can do but little, so great is the fanaticism, apathy, gross ignorance, and venality of most of the officials. The Courts, notwithstanding all the rules, regulations, laws, &c., that have been passed, are still very much in the same state as when I last reported on them. Generally pure and independent justice is not to be found. Jobbery, bribery, and corruption are widely practised, and verdicts are for the most powerful and the highest bidders. If the accused are willing to bribe or have influential friends it is hopeless to expect a conviction, and even should one forced upon the Court and punishment awarded, it is more than probable that the prisoner will be released long before his term of punishment is ended. On the other hand, cases are frequently got up against wealthy individuals who are not specially protected with a view to making them disgorge some of their wealth.

Besides the many failures there are, the endless delays, weeks, months, and years are spent in trying to get a verdict. The suitors are put off from day to day, and finally, in despair, are driven to throw up their case or bribe heavily.

These delays are especially to be deplored with reference to prisoners. Many of these unfortunate people are left to linger or rot away for years in the dens that are dignified by the name of prisons, without their case having ever been even inquired into.

Similar to most of the other institutions of Turkey, the rules and regulations of the Courts are fair enough, although probably too advanced, for the state of civilisation, but unfortunately these rules are but seldom attended to. Their non-observance gives rise to many injustices and scandals, of which probably the most noticeable is the way in which the preliminary examination of witnesses and accused is conducted. By law it is directed that this inquiry is to be made by the Mustantik (Examiner) in person, and in the presence of one of the members of the Court. The *procès-verbal* is then to be signed by the Mustantik, the member of the Court, and the person under examination. Practically, these rules are but seldom followed. A second-rate clerk on a salary of 270 piastres, or 2*l.* to 3*l.*, is detailed to carry out this most important duty, and no member is present. The paper thus irregularly drawn up is signed or sealed by the person being examined, who, in the majority of cases, is unable to read what is written, and then sent on to the Court. A decision is probably given without any further inquiry. I am told that this private inquiry stage is the period in which most of the bribery is carried on, the clerk acting as intermediary for the Mustantik, President, &c. In any reforms that may take place this office of Mustantik should be abolished.

Of the different law officials here in Konia there are but few who have a good reputation.

The Cadi is said to be honest, but, like most of his class, fanatical. He is President of the Civil Appeal Court, as well as the Shéri. He openly deplores having to judge according to the civil law. He looks with hatred and contempt on any other law but the Shéri and Mofellé, and decides, whenever possible, according to them. A very necessary reform is to deprive this class of officials of appointments in the common law courts. It is impossible to expect such officials from their religious training to be anything else but fanatical.

Of the Civil Division Bedayet (First Instance) Court, the President, one member, and the Chief Clerk all belong to the above class. The Court, whenever it can, judges according to the religious law, and generally allows itself to be swayed by its religious antipathies.

Of the Criminal Division Bedayet (First Instance), by far the most important Court, I am told its work is greatly in arrears, the Court not nearly sitting the number of hours it ought to, and also that its sentences are generally for the highest bidders.

The President of this Court is clever, but thoroughly unscrupulous. He is a son of one of the resident Notables, and both he and his father are notorious for their bribery and corruption. Through his own and his father's influence, he is more or less the master of the Court. One of the members now acting as Mustantik was a servant of his father's, and the Assistant Procureur-General (Mauvin) is his brother-in-law. Both these officials are also notorious for their bribery. Many are the complaints I have heard of the father and son, but as usual all from the highest officials so fear them that no one comes forward with distinct charges. The father some years ago was, on account of his malpractices, suspended from employment by an order from Stamboul. The son, some two or three years ago, was turned out of his position of Evkaff Nazir for the following reason:—There is a Vakoof (pious foundation) near here called the Piré Oglou Vakoof. This Vakoof is managed by the Evkaff Nazir, and an annual rental of 150 piastres is paid the Vakoof fee (owner) by an order given him by the Evkaff Nazir in the Treasury. By some means or other the annual rental was changed to 70,000 piastres. The swindle was reported to Constantinople, and the Evkaff Nazir, now the President of the Bedayet Court, was dismissed. The Vakoof fee was called upon to refund the money, but he pleaded poverty. He is constantly being put into prison, but, through the influence of the President of the Court, is soon released. It is hardly necessary to remark no regular inquiry has ever been made or the guilt brought home to the real culprit.

With reference to this official a petition was signed by about thirty influential Mahommedans and Christians, and sent some four months ago to the Minister of Justice. The petitioners complained of his great venality, tyranny, and injustice. No answer has been returned.

The Commercial Court is said to be very inefficient. The President who has just been ordered to Castamuni is an ignorant, incompetent, good-for-nothing official. He is said to have qualified for his post by being servant to a Pasha.

The district Courts, with the exception of the towns of Lobarta and Adulia, where the officials are reported to have some slight knowledge of the law, are, as might be expected, rather worse than they are here. At Lobarta the President of the Commercial Court is, I am told, an ignorant drunkard. Although several times reported on, he is not dismissed, as he is son-in-law to the sub-Governor.

As for Christian evidence, with the exception of the Shéri, it is now generally taken in all the superior Courts. Some months ago it was not taken either here or elsewhere, but a case in point was brought to the notice of the authorities, with the result that it is now generally taken. I am, however, informed that the Christians generally dislike coming forward, as there is still a great disinclination to hear them. It is more than probable that in many of the smaller towns their evidence is not yet taken. In the small town of Beyschehir I am told the Mahommedans a short time ago objected to having Christians as members. Generally, as regard Christians they are little better than ciphers in many of the courts and councils, and whether they object or not to a decision is of little consequence. This state of things is hardly to be wondered at, considering the estimation in which they are held.

I append a few cases that have recently been brought to my notice; they will illustrate far better than anything I can write the inefficiency, injustice, and delays of the Courts; they have all happened within the last year or two. I have every reason to believe that they are quite true, and that, if necessary, their number could be greatly increased.

1. About a year ago two men, Arab Ibrahim and Ahmed, attempted to strangle a woman called Tattoo, and robbed her house. On their departure the neighbours came and released the woman. The robbers were taken up and sentenced by the Criminal Division Bedayet Court to three and a-half years' imprisonment. Seven months after conviction the President of the Court and the Assistant Procureur-General had the men released. The woman is now in daily dread of being again assaulted; she has made frequent petitions to the authorities, but with no result.

2. Two men, Mustafa and Ramazan, have now been five years in prison awaiting their trial; no inquiry has been held; they were accused of receiving stolen goods. By law this punishment does not exceed three years.

3. Two years ago an Armenian, Minas Oglou Mesrob, was murdered near the village of Botza by three men; the men were taken up and sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. Twelve months later on, Johannes, an elder brother of Mesrob, was also murdered. Four men were taken up, an inquiry was held, and no sentence given. During the fire in the prison, some few months ago, the seven men escaped; they are living now unmolested in the village of Gürekli, 10 hours distant. Little or no efforts have been made to recapture them. They are said to be wealthy.

4. At Zillé, some three years ago, the wife of Hadji Ammania was murdered. Hadji Sofiula (woman), Hadji Mikhael, and Johannes were taken up on suspicion; an inquiry was held nine months after, and Hadji Sofiula was released on bail. The case has been pending in the Criminal Division Bedayet Court ever since. The woman is

now again in prison. Her husband has made many efforts to get a verdict one way or the other, but without result; from being wealthy, he is now reduced to poverty.

5. Jigger Hussein was murdered a short time ago at Khatun Serai. Topal Mustafa Oglou and his wife were taken up on the charge. They offered 100 medjidiehs blood-money to Jigger Hussein's father, but he refused. The prisoners were found guilty by the Criminal Division Bedayet Court, but no sentence was given. The murderers are now at large. The father has made many appeals for justice, but with no result.

6. At Jakka Bagh village, Hadji Hassan carried off by force a woman called Finike. In the scuffle in carrying her off her husband was wounded. Hadji Hassan was sentenced by the Criminal Division Bedayet Court to eighteen months' imprisonment. Two months after conviction he was released by the President.

7. In the gardens of Hodja Jehan village, near here, a man was murdered. The murderers were taken up, tried, and pronounced guilty; no sentence was given. A few days after the gaol took fire, and they escaped; they are now living at Hodja Jehan village. Hardly any attempt has been made to recapture them.

8. Seyid and Suleiman, residents of Ladik, accused of making indecent overtures to a boy, have been ten months awaiting trial in prison. No inquiry whatever has been held by the Criminal Division Bedayet Court; no witnesses. Both men are said to be wealthy.

With reference to this case, the men were released to-day. No inquiry has been made.

(Signed) D. STEWART, *Captain, 11th Hussars,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Konia, September 23, 1880.

No. 155.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 460.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a very interesting Report by Mr. St. John, Secretary of this Embassy, on the subject of the deplorable condition of a large number of Turkish refugees in the neighbourhood of Ismid and Ghemlek, and of the measures he has taken for their relief.

When Mr. St. John returned from his second visit, and communicated to me its results, I thought it right to address a very strong note to the Porte on the subject, of which I beg to forward a copy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE G. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Consul St. John to Mr. Goschen.

Therapia, October 11, 1880.

Sir,

IN conformity with the desire expressed to me by your Excellency, I have the honour to report on my recent visits to the Gulfs of Ismid and of Moudanieh, which, as your Excellency is aware, I at first undertook in consequence of an opportunity of a short cruize offered me by Captain Selby, in Her Majesty's ship "Torch," but which I afterwards repeated in Her Majesty's ship "Antelope," for the purpose of relieving, with the remnant of the Compassionate Fund in my hands, those whom I had found perishing from fever and starvation.

No sooner did we land at the town of Ismid, whither we had partly gone to visit the graves of the victims of the explosion on board Her Majesty's ship "Thunderer," than we heard rumours of the deplorable state of the immigrants in the neighbourhood, who had, two months and a-half previously, arrived from the eastern coast of the Black Sea.

In order to ascertain whether these rumours were correct I questioned the Governor of the town during his return visit to Captain Selby, on board Her Majesty's ship "Torch," but this functionary's statements differed so materially from what we had heard on all sides in the town, that we determined the next day to ride round the

head of the Gulf to a place on the shore which was indicated to us, so as to judge for ourselves.

After skirting for four hours the shore, which was in some places literally lined with fruit-trees and covered with the fallen fruit, we reached a clump of sycamores beneath which lay half-a-dozen men, with peculiar head-dresses, and that unmistakable look so familiar to those who have resided in famine-stricken districts. They were engaged in taking the husks off nuts which were piled in heaps before them. On inquiry, we discovered that these were some of the people whom we were seeking, and that the rest were distributed over seven Mussulman villages in the neighbourhood; that they are Georgians, and came from a spot about thirteen hours from Batoum, where they embarked, to the number of 7,000, in a Turkish transport, which landed 1,400 here and the rest at Ghemlek, in the Gulf of Moudanieh.

On our expressing a wish to visit the nearest village, one of the men rose and offered himself as guide to conduct us to Seraïli, about 3 miles up the mountain side, and through a veritable forest of quince, apple, walnut, and chestnut-trees. After entering the village we dismounted in a small open space, where, under shelter of a kind of summer-house erected on a raised stone platform, we proceeded to rest and refresh ourselves, and were soon surrounded by about forty or fifty immigrants, who seemed to be listlessly wandering about the streets, not knowing what to do with themselves. The one who acted as spokesman was an elderly and very sickly-looking Mollah, or priest, who informed us that all were stricken with fever, and that, with the exception of some more sick than the rest, all withdrew at night for shelter under the trees, and fed exclusively on the fruit they picked up. Having heard the guide say on our way up that over 200 had died since their arrival, and that they had quitted their native country because the Mollahs had advised them to do so after it had been annexed by Russia, I inquired if this were true, and how he could have given advice that was calculated to bring such misery to those who appeared to have been prosperous at home, and had admitted to me that they were well-treated by the Russian Government. He replied that, having arrived first, in order to report upon the country, he was struck with its extreme fertility, and that, in view of the offers of assistance of every kind made by the Turkish Government, he had considered emigration as advisable, and recommended it to his countrymen, who came out in consequence. On my inquiring what those offers were he produced a printed prospectus, which I brought away with me. Its principal provisions are as follows: To supply, during the first twelve months, daily half an oke (over 1 lb. English) of bread to every needy immigrant over the age of 10 years, and one-quarter of an oke to every one under that age; to supply food, shelter, and medical attendance, as well as medicines, to the sick as long as required; to provide employment at the State farms, or in some other way, according to local circumstances; to furnish land without taking it from the natives; to supply seed and agricultural implements; to establish the immigrants in separate villages, and to advance them money to build houses, mosques, and schools, and to supply teachers.

How all these fair promises have been fulfilled may be inferred by the account these people now gave of themselves.

Out of the 1,400 who arrived here two and a-half months previously, 211 had died; the survivors had sold their arms, their bedding, and their clothes for food, and, with exception of some few of the sick, were living without shelter of any kind.

As to the condition of those who were under shelter at the time, I will quote a Report made by Dr. Barry, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," after he had visited them the next day:—

"In obedience to your orders, I visited the village of Serai-li on the 12th instant (September), and found the immigrants in a starving condition. Having been told by their Chief that about sixty of them were sick, I requested permission to see some of them. The majority of the patients were very seriously ill, suffering from diarrhœa and dysentery, and in want of food, medicines, and clothing. In addition, I was informed that, for want of money to pay for renting the houses used temporarily as hospitals, the sick in a few days would have to be turned out into the fields. A Turkish surgeon is in attendance, but unprovided with medicines or medical comforts of any description."

The following day I returned to the spot on the shore above mentioned in Her Majesty's ship "Torch," and landed 3,000 lbs. of rice which I had purchased the previous day at Ismid, but, to my surprise, the rice was refused by those who seemed so eager for it when I proposed it on the occasion of my first visit. A change had come over these

people, and they persisted in their refusal unless I brought them a written order from the Governor of the town of Ismid. Under these circumstances, I resolved to re-embark the rice and return to Ismid, where I dispatched my dragoman to explain matters to the Governor, who at first declined to give the order without previous reference to Constantinople; but on being told that we should not wait, but return to the Bosphorus with the rice, he yielded, and we were enabled the next day to hand it over to those for whom it had been purchased.

On my inquiring of one of the principal men of the tribe whether it was true that many more were expected from Bateum, he replied in the affirmative, and, on my questioning the expediency of emigrating at this season of the year, he observed that, by the Convention with Russia, if postponed till next spring, emigration would no longer be permitted by the Russian authorities.

I also asked why they did not petition the Sultan, who, doubtless, was not aware of their perilous position. He said this had been attempted through the ordinary channels, but without effect, and it had been determined, previous to our visit, to send a deputation to your Excellency to petition you to intercede for them with the Sultan, but that our visit had happily rendered this course now no longer necessary, as it would have involved some expense. I further asked what would be required to enable these people to get through the coming winter, to which it was replied that a supply of 150 tents would enable them to do so; but, in the opinion of the Turkish military surgeon on the spot, this alone would be insufficient, and he thinks that nearly all will die without further assistance.

After promising to return with more rice and the medicines asked for, I proceeded in Her Majesty's ship "Torch" to the Gulf of Moudanieh, where, on anchoring off the town of Ghemlek, we proceeded, after seeing the authorities, to the Government dockyards, in the immediate vicinity of which we found upwards of 600 people living chiefly with no other shelter than the olive trees: most of them were prostrate with fever and dysentery. After distributing quinine and chlorodyne, and rations of rice, we embarked for a spot about 6 miles down the coast. Here we found more than 200 immigrants all suffering from disease, and most without shelter of any sort. Within a few yards of the small wooden pier, and close to the water's edge, was the corpse of a woman who had just died. We gave out medicines and rice as at the former place. All appeared, as there, to be subsisting exclusively on raw quinces, which were growing in great abundance around them.

The following day we returned to both the last-mentioned places, and in both instances we were convinced, by the great eagerness of the people to have more, of the great efficacy of only one dose of medicine administered the previous day. As your Excellency is aware, I have, since the incidents which I have narrated, visited both the Gulf of Ismid and that of Moudanieh in Her Majesty's ship "Antelope" with more supplies of medicines and rice. I need not advert more particularly to my second visit to the Serai-li than by stating that we were only shown one sick person in the village, so that the prediction of Dr. Barry, that all the sick who could not pay rent would be turned out into the fields, was but too plainly verified. I inferred, moreover, from the very reduced number of those seen loitering about the village, that timely notice must have been given him from the town of Ismid, where he had remained at anchor during the previous night, that the immigrants should be kept out of our sight. This impression was further corroborated by our second visit to Ghemlek, in the Gulf of Moudanieh, from whence I have just returned, where we found that all had gone from under the olive trees, and, instead of the 200 sick which were crowded in one building, we found only about forty people, whose desperate condition was the probable cause of their continued presence there. In one small room we found four persons, of whom two were prostrate with fever, one on the point of death and one actually dead: remnants of raw quinces about the floor showed what they had subsisted on.

One thousand emigrants we heard of as being settled at the village of Kalali at a distance of three hours from Ghemlek. The Chief of this tribe happening to be at Ghemlek during our visit we gave him 2,000 lbs. of rice, but he seemed especially eager for quinine, and so we supplied him with nearly 300 doses.

This Mollah appeared to look with dread to the approaching winter. On inquiring if the Government would not render them assistance, he replied that 10,000 piastres (about 80*l.*) was all that was promised to them, and he begged us to give him a written statement of the amount of rice delivered to him lest the authorities should endeavour to abstract a portion before the rice reached its destination.

We visited various other places on the coast where we were informed at Ghemlek that we should find more of these Georgian immigrants. At one place, the village of

Festikli, they seemed to be all well lodged and tolerably fed, though from want of quinine all appeared suffering from fever, more especially the women, not one of whom hardly appeared able to raise herself up from her couch unassisted in order to take the medicine.

From what I have heard and seen during these visits, the impression I derived is that the chief mortality has been among the children, that the women are now dying, and that the men will ultimately succumb with the approach of winter unless means are found to provide them with the necessaries of life. I have now exhausted the balance of the compassionate fund left me by Sir Henry Layard, and I am therefore unable to do no more myself.

I cannot conclude this Report without expressing to your Excellency my appreciation of the great assistance rendered me by Dr. Barry, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," and by M. Preziosi, whom during my last visit you permitted to accompany me as interpreter. In his case, to visit the sick and dying must have been an ordeal of no common kind, and was attended with some risk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

Mr. Goschen to Assim Pasha.

Therapia, September 28, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

MR. ST. JOHN, First Secretary of the Embassy, finding himself as a guest on board Her Majesty's ship "Torch" off Ismidt, and hearing of the great sufferings of the number of refugees who had been landed there some months ago, proceeded to the spot and visited them.

I have the painful duty to inclose you a memorandum stating what he saw. Hearing that there were refugees at Ghemlek in an equally deplorable condition, he paid them a visit also, and put the fearful sights he witnessed on record.

No words of mine can add to the picture of suffering which he has drawn; suffering endured by faithful and obedient subjects of His Majesty the Sultan, who, on the strength of promises made to them by the Turkish Government, but not kept, had left the dominion of another Power apparently to die on Turkish soil.

I call your Excellency's attention to the fact, that the scenes described by Mr. St. John are occurring within four hours of the capital of the Empire and close to Government establishments.

The attention of the Prefect of Constantinople was drawn weeks ago to what is happening, but I can hear of no steps which are being taken to mitigate the intense sufferings which are being endured, or to arrest the mortality which is rapidly carrying off the sufferers.

I should not be justified if, being in possession of the facts which are described in the inclosed documents, I did not bring them to your Excellency's notice. Your Excellency will understand that I take this step solely in the cause of humanity.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 156.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 464.)
Therapia, October 12, 1880.

My Lord,

MR. THOMSON communicated to me his telegram No. 121 to your Lordship of the 8th instant on the subject of the recent Kurdish incursion into Persian territory, under the leadership of Abdel Kader, the son of Sheikh Obeydullah, and of Hamatagh Agha.

Telegrams which I have received from Van and from Bagdad, copies of which I have the honour to inclose, confirm the news contained in Mr. Thompson's telegram. The insurrection would seem to be assuming serious proportions. The Persian Ambassador, with whom I communicated on the subject, was not so well informed as I am.

In view of the important part that Sheikh Obeydullah is likely to play in a Kurdish movement, I have caused a résumé to be drawn up by Mr. Sartoris of such information as has been received at this Embassy since the beginning of the year about this Chieftain.

I also transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches from Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, which deal principally with the Kurdish question. Captain Clayton had in a recent telegram expressed the intention of visiting Bitlis, but in view of the unsettled state of the country, and of the possibility of the insurrection spreading, I have requested him to remain for the present at Van. I do not know, however, whether my telegram will have reached him in time.

I spoke the other day to the Persian Ambassador on the subject of the proposed Convention between the Sublime Porte and the Persian Government for the settlement of the Kurdish Frontier question. His Excellency told me that it was not yet settled whether Tehran or Constantinople were the place where negotiations would be carried on. His Excellency also spoke of the possible necessity of a Commission visiting the frontier in question, in order to settle matters on the spot, and to inquire into the truth of the charges made against tribes on both sides of the frontier.

I would suggest that, should such a commission be sent, one of the Consular officers of Her Majesty's Government should be instructed to watch its proceedings, and to assist the Commission by impartial advice.

Your Lordship will find an interesting account of the state of Kurdistan, as well as of the history of past insurrections, in Major Trotter's able despatch No. 40, which I forward to your Lordship in another despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 156.

Captain Clayton to Mr. Goschen.

Van, October 5, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is reported that son of Sheikh Obeydullah, with 500 men, is marching against Persia. Zaptiehs here have struck because unpaid. Government paralyzed. Kurdish pillaging on all sides.

Inclosure 2 in No. 156.

Consul-General Plowden to Mr. Goschen.

Bagdad, October 8, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

REPORTED that Sheikh Obeydullah, with many thousand Kurds, has crossed the Persian frontier, and reached Urumiyah. It is stated that several thousand Nestorians are with him.

Inclosure 3 in No. 156.

Correspondence received since January 1880 *respecting Sheikh Obeydullah.*

IN February 1880, the Mudessarif of Bashkala told Captain Clayton (No. 2 of the 2nd February, 1880) that, in order to please Sheikh Obeydullah, he would have to imprison the Kurdish Chief, Jehanghir Agha, who had been faithful to the Government in the insurrection of 1879, but who had offended the Sheikh.

The Christians of Bashkala were very apprehensive of what the Kurds might do in the spring.

When, in April last (No. 12 of the 13th April), there was a question of moving some of the troops from the Hakkiari to Van, great fear was expressed by the Christians at this being done, as they would be left practically at the mercy of the Sheikh, who was on bad terms with Mar Shimoon.

In May Captain Clayton (No. 16 of the 5th May) reports that the Government protects the Kurds, and always takes part with them against the Christians in any question; that, in consequence, justice and protection for the Christians was almost unattainable. He says (No. 17 of the 12th May) that the feebleness and unwillingness

of the Government to protect the Christians had made the Kurds so bold, and had encouraged them to murder and plunder the Christians to such an extent that, if within six months the Government did not take effective measures to keep the Kurds in order, the Christian population would be either destroyed or driven out of a large part of the country (No. 23 of the 11th July).

Sheikh Obeydullah told the officer of the Mutessarif who took him the Firman of the Decoration sent by the Sultan, and who repeated it to Captain Clayton, that he (the Sheikh) would not tolerate the Armenians of Van or the Nestorians being made independent. Captain Clayton ascertained, however, that Sheikh Obeydullah had made overtures to Mar Shimoon and the Armenian clergy, promising to protect the Christians if they would join him against the Government. He also heard that the Sheikh was going to send his son to Constantinople with proposals to the Sultan for making him semi-independent, and recognizing his authority over Kurdistan.

Captain Clayton adds that the Sheikh had powerful enemies, and needed the help of the Christians to confirm his authority, for both the strong Ashirets of the Diré, under Jehanghir Agha, and the Pinyanish, under Mehemet Agha, of Hurwata, were opposed to him, and the Sheikh's eldest son, who was then in Persian territory, was on bad terms with him. He thought that, in case the Sheikh met with a reverse, the loyalty of other Kurds could not be depended on.

In July Captain Clayton visited Sheikh Obeydullah (No. 24 of the 2nd August). While on the road to Neri, the Sheikh's residence, he saw Jehanghir Agha, mentioned above, and who is alluded to in Captain Clayton's despatch No. 2 of the 2nd February, 1880. This Chief told him that, with the exception of himself and Mehemet Agha, Chief of the Pinyanish, Sheikh Obeydullah had come to an understanding with all the Kurdish Chiefs, and that there was no doubt that his idea was to establish an independent Kurdistan in case of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. He also said that Osman Effendi, Kaïmakam of Gevver, was an Agent of the Sheikh's.

A custom-house officer at Diza told Captain Clayton that the country was suffering from two rival Governments, that of the Turkish Empire and that of the Sheikh, and that the adviser and prompter of the latter was Reschid Bey, Kaïmakam of Shaddakh, of the family of Abbas, of the old Deré Beys, to whom an office had been given in the hope of reconciling him to the new state of things after the promulgation of the Tanzimat; that Reschid Bey, on his return from a visit to Constantinople, had told the Sheikh that the Empire was in a dying state, and would be divided between the European Powers, and advised him to strike for independence.

Captain Clayton found that the Nestorians, from villages of the plain, had placed themselves under the protection of the Sheikh, but with little advantage to themselves. On his road to Neri Captain Clayton found that from the village of Michieh, near the further end of the Plain of Gevver, about three hours from Diza, the country was entirely under the Sheikh's rule, the villagers paying taxes to the Sheikh, but not to the Government.

The Sheikh received Captain Clayton at Neri with great distinction, lodging him in his own house. He expressed great friendship and sympathy for England, and said he wished to reform and to rule all creeds and nationalities alike, if the Turkish Government would allow him to do so.

Sheikh Hamid, of Bashkala, came to see Captain Clayton while he was at Neri, and did his best to obtain from him some encouragement to the Sheikh Obeydullah to adopt independent action.

In a private interview Captain Clayton had with Sheikh Obeydullah, the Sheikh told him that though he was an Ottoman subject his sympathies were entirely with England, because he heard from Sheikhs and other influential Mussulmans in India, with whom he was in communication, of the prosperity the Mussulmans enjoyed under English rule. He expressed himself willing to carry out any orders he might receive from the English Government, without fear of either the Turkish or Persian Governments, of neither of which he was afraid, and said he could do them, the English, "very great service, so great service as no one would think of."

Speaking of Armenia, the Sheikh told Captain Clayton that the Powers need not fear creating a Principality of Armenia on account of the Kurds, for, if permitted, he would keep them entirely under control.

The impression that appears to have been made on Captain Clayton's mind from what he heard from the Sheikh himself, as well as from other persons, is that Sheikh Obeydullah is bent on establishing a practically independent Kurdistan. Like many other persons in that country, he imagines that England desires to obtain territory there, and, knowing her power, thinks it best to offer to throw in his lot with her, and

was perhaps prepared to hand over Kurdistan to her in the hope of being rewarded by being himself made a sort of Viceroy, or semi-independent vassal, like some of the native Princes in India. He has great power over most of the Kurdish Chiefs, who are only awaiting his orders to move. The country where his authority prevails seems to be better off than the rest, for he allows no one but himself to oppress and squeeze the people; indeed, his conduct last year in punishing the Herikí Kurds, a nomad tribe, who do much harm, has earned him a great deal of gratitude. He does not, however, prevent his own Kurds from plundering other districts. The Nestorians of the mountains fear that he meditates a massacre like that of Beder Khan Bey, and are making preparations to defend themselves.

Captain Clayton considers that Obeydullah is a serious element in the problem presented by Kurdistan, but is inclined to agree with Jehanghir Agha and the Custom-house, who said that he could not stand against any effort made by a moderate number of regular troops: he thinks a coalition might be readily broken up by firmness, backed by a sufficient display of force, but that the plan at present adopted by the Turkish Government, of trying to purchase tranquillity by bribes, decorations, and flattery, will not succeed.

The Ottoman Government is practically helpless in Shemdina, Jelu, Oramar, and further south. No taxes are paid by these districts to the Government, and though there is a Mudir at Neri his post is a sinecure, as the only authority acknowledged is that of the Sheikh.

Captain Clayton thinks that his visit may, for the present, induce the Sheikh to remain quiet, in order to gain the good opinion of England and Europe, but that if he sees that he is not likely to obtain anything from them, he will strike a blow for himself.

If the Sheikh is to remain in the country, a judicious mixture of firmness and conciliation would perhaps be sufficient to keep him in order and make him into a useful Agent; but should he not accept such a position, it would be necessary to get rid of him at any price if the country is to be permanently quieted.

Mr. Abbott* more than confirms Captain Clayton's statements as to the influence and power of Sheikh Obeydullah. He describes him as likely to take advantage of the increasing feebleness of the Sultan's power, and free himself from his nominal allegiance to the Porte, in which case every Kurd in Persia and Turkey would flock to his standard. He considers that if the Sheikh thought it advisable he would not hesitate to exterminate the Christian populations, and would instigate massacres in Turkish Armenia, as far as the Persian frontier.

As their spiritual Chief he is held in veneration by Kurdish tribes both in Persia and Turkey.

He has brought the Shekak tribe, which owes allegiance to the Shah, considerably under his control, and is well supplied with Martini rifles.

At Merghever the Persian Government are unable to place a Representative, owing to the opposition of the Sheikh; while the Chiefs of Ooshnoo and Lahijan, vassals and tributaries of the Shah, are negotiating for a *status* of independence, which will make them virtually his allies.

Major Trotter, in a memorandum on the state of the Vilayet of Diarbekir (No. 40, October 2), gives an interesting résumé of Sheikh Obeydullah's past history and of his present intention.

Captain Clayton telegraphs (October 5) that Sheikh Obeydullah's son was marching, with 500 men, against Persia. That the Kurds were pillaging on all sides, and that the zaptiehs had struck, because they were not paid.

Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran telegraphed on the 8th October to Her Majesty's Embassy at Therapia that 15,000 Kurds had crossed the Persian frontier, under the leadership of Abdul Kader, Sheikh Obeydullah's son, and Hamatagh Agha, a Persian Chieftain, and had advanced within a few miles of Maragh.

Her Majesty's Consul-General confirms this information (October 8, Telegraphic), and adds that "several thousand Nestorians" are marching with the Kurds.

Therapia, October 10, 1880.

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* See *ante*, No. 82, and to Mr. Goschen, No. 506, September 23, 1880.

Inclosure 4 in No. 156.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 27. Political.)

Sir, *Van, September* 7, 1880.

WITH reference to the circumstance mentioned in my last despatch, No. 26, Political, that Government had sent agents into various parts, who had induced the Medjlisses to sign papers declaring the tranquillity of the country and their satisfaction with the Government, I have received two papers from the districts of Shaddakh and Nurduz, signed by the Treasurer of the Kaïmakanlik, members of the Medjliss, priests, and other prominent Christians. I inclose a translation of one of these, the other being to the same purport.

The Kurds from the Persian frontier continue, by the last reports, to pillage the country between Van and Bayazid, and there was even a rumour, a day or two ago, that they were threatening the town of Bayazid itself, but that is as yet unconfirmed, and, in fact, very little is positively known about these raids. Two battalions have been under orders for some days to proceed to that part of the country, but have not yet moved.

Other Kurds, chiefly the Shikaks, are pillaging the country in the direction of Bashkala, having even ventured on this side of Mahmoudié, within 15 miles of Van itself. In both these directions villages have been plundered indiscriminately, whether Kurdish, Turkish, Christian, or Yezidi.

I have also to report that Hajji Mustapha Effendi, about whom I have already written in my despatches No. 30, Political, of the 17th December, 1879, No. 2, Political, of the 2nd February, 1880, and No. 6, Political, of the 16th February, 1880, and who was removed by the Reform Commissioners from his position as President of the Criminal Tribunal at Bashkala, has within the last few days been reinstated, by order from Constantinople. Of course the explanation given is that no proof has been brought of his guilt; but when I have been at Bashkala complaints have reached me from all sides of his conduct, even from the Mutessarif himself, and plenty of evidence might have been obtained if it had been desired; but, as far as I can understand, no real investigation, with an honest desire to find out the truth, has been made. No doubt he has been able to obtain powerful influence in his favour; but no improvement in the condition of the country can be expected when officials against whom such complaints are made are supported and encouraged, instead of having their conduct searchingly investigated, and punished if necessary.

The Vali is about to make a tour through the vilayet, to organize the communes according to the schemes described by Abeddin Pasha in his note in reply to the identic note of the Powers. In addition to other unsatisfactory features, it appears that neither the Administrator nor the Municipal Councillors appointed under this scheme are to receive any salary. It is doubtful if persons will be got to serve under such conditions, except with the view of making their office profitable by illegitimate means.

I am purporting to start to-morrow, with Mr. Scott, the American Missionary, in his boat, for Arjesh, to obtain a supply of corn for the winter, and to make arrangements for obtaining grain for famine relief purposes; there is none at present in the market at Van except at very high prices. I shall hope also to obtain better information about what has been going on in the direction of Bayazid. I shall probably be away about a week or ten days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 156.

Letter addressed to Vice-Consul Clayton.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Shaddakh, August* $\frac{13}{25}$, 1880.

WE think it our duty to inform you that Tahir Bey, who was sent by the Government to Shaddakh on the pretext of examining into our condition, and arresting the chief malefactors of this district, did not take any steps of that kind. He neither asked the Armenians for information as regards their oppressors, nor received any petitions from them.

Reis Boghos, of the village of Salwantz, who, some days before the arrival of

Tahir Bey, was, with his son, attacked and wounded, personally presented a petition on the subject to him, but in vain. Instead of taking such criminal affairs into consideration, he made a *procès-verbal* to the effect that not a single case of a crime had occurred in the whole district of Shaddakh, and that whenever outrages are committed the Local Government accomplishes its duty in punishing the malefactors. We, therefore, declare that we cannot, and do not, approve that *procès-verbal*, and protest against those persons who, sitting in the Medjliss, were induced to sign such a paper filled with lies and frauds. We inform you also that Ali, Osman, and Hamid, the chief malefactors of this district, who were for criminal affairs arested and put in prison, were released on the same day that Tahir Bey left here for Van.

Eight Kurdish families, called Grawli, continually oppress and ill-treat the Armenian population of Shaddakh, which is composed of more than 1,000 houses. It was Omar Agha who killed some years ago Mamg, the Melek of Shaddakh; Muhammed and Ali, who are brothers, are the murderers of several Armenians. Ali, Osman, and Hamid together have recently fired at an Armenian, who lay in his bed with his son, and wounded them. Besides, many houses, stores, and stables have been partly plundered, partly burnt, and many flocks carried off by them and their people belonging to different Ashirets, who enjoy the protection of the authorities. And we tell you, Sir, that these Grawlis have now very bad and destructive intentions against the poor Armenians of Shaddakh, and unless, as soon as possible, some efficient steps are taken to prevent them from carrying out their hostile schemes, this district will be entirely ruined and destroyed by them. In a word, either something must be done for securing our existence here or we shall have to emigrate to another country, where we can find protection and enjoy tranquillity.

(10 signatures.)

Inclosure 6 in No. 156.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 28. Political.)

Van, September 8, 1880.

Sir,

THIS morning a deputation of the leading Armenians of Van, headed by the ex-Patriarch, Chrimian, called on me to say that intelligence had just been received from Hakkiari that three Armenian and ten Nestorian villages in Hakkiari had been pillaged by the Shikak Kurds, who had carried away every single head of oxen, so that none remained to get in the harvest. The expectation was that the Kurds would come back soon and carry away the harvest. The Melek of Baz also, a rather prominent Nestorian leader, has been murdered by the Kurds.

I shall see the authorities and urge them to take steps to prevent such things from occurring, but, unfortunately, Samih Pasha, the Commandant of the 4th Army Corps, who is here, is not on good terms with the Vali, and prevents the troops from being employed properly to guard the country and Persian frontier. He will allow no troops to move or act except after reference to him, and the consequence is that maranders have ample time to escape before any pursuit is made.

I am afraid that Samih Pasha's presence here is very harmful, and it would be well if he went to Erzinjan, where his head-quarters should properly be.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 157.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 610.)

Foreign Office, October 19, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 197 of the 1st July, I transmit to your Excellency a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran,* recording a further conversation which he has had with the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the question of maintaining order amongst the Kurdish tribes who inhabit the neighbourhood of the Turco-Persian frontier.

Your Excellency will perceive from Mr. Thomson's despatch that the Turkish Minister at Tehran has made no progress with the Convention which it was proposed

* Mr. Thomson's No. 194.

to negotiate with the Persian Government for the settlement of this question; and I have to request you to take a favourable opportunity of urging upon the Porte the necessity of expediting the conclusion of this agreement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 158.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 460.)

Therapia, October 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of the correspondence relative to the complaints of the Christians of the Giaour Dagh of their ill-treatment by the Mussulmans, and of the negligence of the Ottoman Government to take remedial measures.

Your Lordship will be pleased to observe that Mr. Acting Consul Catoni reports in his despatch No. 33 of the 30th ultimo, that the Mutessarif of Bareket Dagh has proceeded to Payas to inquire into the grievances of the Armenian Christians, and is exerting himself to see that justice is done them, which has had the effect of calming public feeling.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 29.)

Aleppo, September 4, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith in translation a petition which the Christians of the Giaour Dagh have forwarded to me through the Vice-Consul at Alexandretta.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

Petition of Christians of Giaour Dagh to British Consul at Alexandretta.

ÉTANT admis que les règlements établis par le respectable Gouvernement Ottoman dont nous relevons doivent être mis en vigueur sur une base égale vis-à-vis de tous les sujets et des différentes religions et puisque on ne voit pas la réalisation de cette égalité et des Règlements, mais bien au contraire, il se produit de la part du Gouvernement (c'est-à-dire de l'Administration Gouvernementale) des avilissements et de l'humiliation envers la nation Chrétienne, nous avons l'honneur de les exposer.

Comme cela eut lieu en tout temps contre la nation Chrétienne établie dans le district de Bayass, dépendant du Sandjak de Gebel Berokat, compris dans le Vilayet d'Adana, et qui est notre district; depuis une demi-année environ notre Caïmacam Edhem Effendi et son substitut, le Chef de bataillon du Liva, Ali Bey, qui est l'un des anciens Dérébey (littéralement, Bey de la Vallée), et par l'instigation et les menées de quelques-uns des Notables, nous firent battre et l'on enleva et vola successivement nos différents objets et notre bétail, dont la valeur dépasse 300,000 piastres, comme il appert d'une note détaillée, en les prenant des environs du village pendant le jour, et la nuit en forçant les maisons; et lorsque pour affaires nous nous rendions quelque part on les enlevait en chemin ouvertement. Par conséquent, nous déclarons que nous avons perdu tout espoir de faire des voyages pour affaires et pour gagner notre pain, et qu'il ne nous reste plus de sûreté à demeurer dans nos maisons.

Lorsque nous nous sommes adressés au Gouvernement Local pour demander l'exécution des Règlements du Gouvernement Ottoman vis-à-vis de ceux qui osèrent commettre de pareilles actions, non-seulement nous avons pas vu s'effectuer contre ces derniers des mesures et des châtiments en aucune manière, mais le Caïmacamat nous

traité grossièrement, en nous faisant intimider et menacer par rapport à nos demandes susdites.

Quant aux coupables, voyant que nos dites relations et pétitions demeuraient sans effet, et qu'aucune mesure ne fut prise contre eux, et comprenant que les pétionnaires étaient humiliés, tandis que le Gouvernement leur montrait de l'assistance à eux-mêmes (c'est-à-dire les coupables), ils sont disposés à commettre toute sorte de méfaits.

C'est ainsi que la sûreté nous étant enlevée jusqu'à présent nous nous trouvions jour et nuit sans sommeil pour garder nos biens; maintenant nous avons perdu tout espoir de notre vie, de notre honneur, et de nos familles.

Puisque l'année passée la femme d'Agop, fils de Hanna, du village de Oudjiahlou, fut battue et insultée dans le but de la convertir à l'Islamisme, et fut par force cachée par-ci par-là. Quoique, à force de recherches, elle fut trouvée ensuite, on n'infligea aucun châtiment aux coupables.

Maintenant aussi Uarta, fille mineure de Uaniss, fils de Apan, Arménien du dit village de Oudjiahlou, fut enlevée pendant la nuit, et par force, par Mhamad, fils d'Omar Engia, du village de Tzerlou, avec ses compagnons, après l'avoir battue et insultée. Se mettant tous en fuite ils l'emmenèrent à la maison de Hadji Ismail, du village de Tchailou, situé à une demi-heure de distance de la résidence du Gouvernement. Après l'y avoir cachée pendant deux jours, ils se mirent tous d'accord, ils la firent accompagner par plusieurs personnes, et, afin qu'elle ne puisse faire entendre la voix, ils lui mirent dans la bouche des chiffons, et on l'emmena au village de Tzerlou. Après l'avoir cachée aussi deux ou trois jours dans ce village, on lui fit accompagner de plusieurs personnes du dit village, et on l'emmena à la maison de Dourmouche, du village Ribat, situé à la susdite distance. L'un des Notables fit dire au dit Dourmouche de la faire passer au caza (district) de Khassa, et ils la cachèrent dans l'endroit nommé Mandjilch.

Lorsque l'affaire susdite eut lieu: (1) le père de la jeune fille en référa au Gouvernement en présentant immédiatement une requête, mais il n'en résulta aucun effet, ni des mesures furent prises; (2) le prêtre et (3) l'Evêque se rendirent exprès auprès du Gouvernement, et après avoir raconté l'affaire ils demandèrent l'exécution des Règlements. Cependant cette démarche demeura aussi sans succès. Le Gouverneur a répondu qu'il ne pouvait rien faire, puisque cette affaire ne ressortait plus de sa juridiction, la fille ayant été amenée au district de Khassa. Puisqu'on savait bien que la jeune fille était cachée à une ou deux heures de distance de la résidence du Gouvernement, et l'on ne faisait rien en répondant qu'elle fut mise en fuite au district de Khassa, cela nous fit perdre tout espoir de l'assistance du Gouvernement.

Puis notre Chef religieux se rendit au dit endroit de Mandjelik, trouva la jeune fille dans la maison de Dourmouche, et la ramena en compagnie de Dourmouche.

Le ravisseur de la jeune fille Mhamad susdit s'étant enfui, on en fit part au Gouvernement, afin de mettre la main sur ce fuyard et qu'il soit jugé suivant la loi. Cependant cela n'aboutit à rien aussi.

Sur ces entrefaites, suivant leur ancienne habitude et suivant l'usage adopté continuellement dans leurs discours, ils nous disaient, "O mécréants, O cochons, il faut les abattre tous! ils menaçaient notre nation et nous avilissaient; nous devons vous mettre en pièces ainsi, vous aussi," disaient-ils; et afin de démontrer leurs intentions, le lendemain la plupart de nous, lorsque nous retournions des pâturages des animaux du village Zémin, et nous passions par les environs du village Tzerlou, ils frappèrent huit vaches avec des haches et des couteaux, et les blessèrent. Quelques-unes de ces bêtes furent sauvées, mais quelques-unes vont assurément mourir. La chose fut exposée au Caïmacamat, mais nous n'obtînmes aucune mesure.

Quant à notre nation, tout le monde reconnaît qu'elle ne manque pas d'effectuer en temps opportun toute sorte de services et autres choses différentes exigés par le Gouvernement: de payer le "verghi" (impôt foncier), et l'exonération militaire qui nous touchent, ainsi que les secours pécuniaires importants, comme le cas l'exige; tandis que dix fois autant que cela nous fut, et nous est continuellement volé et enlevé par force de la part des voleurs Musulmans.

De cette manière nous avons perdu toute sûreté pour nos biens, notre vie, et notre honneur; et pour les sauvegarder nous ne sommes plus en pouvoir ni en état de sortir hors de notre maison pour travailler et gagner notre vie, ce qui importune notre vie entière, et ne nous laisse plus de sûreté. Par conséquent, nous ne savons pas ce que nous deviendrons dans cet état, et comment nous trouverons le moyen de subsister.

Tous les agissements et la situation sus-énoncés proviennent à notre nation par le

défaut d'action de la part du Gouvernement et des Musulmans, et par les menées et les relations de quelques ambitieux. Nous vous supplions donc de grâce, de grâce, pour l'amour de Dieu, par charité pour votre tête et pour vos yeux, de vouloir bien nous assister pour nous procurer vite les moyens nécessaires qui peuvent changer notre position actuelle, en nous donnant la paix, l'amélioration, la sûreté, et la tranquillité qui nous conviennent pour vivre.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le 11 *Août*, 1296 (v. s.)

Après trois jours de la date du Mazbata ci-dessus, le Vendredi soir, Agop, fils de Trih, Arménien du village de Oudjaklou, et Agop, fils, de Sinid, lorsqu'ils gardaient leurs ânes qui se trouvaient à demi-heure de distance de leurs maisons, le susdit Inhamad, fils d'Oinar Engia, qui avait enlevé et s'enfuit avec la fille de Ayan Oglou, comme il est exposé dans le Mazbata ci-dessus, lui et cinq autres Musulmans, ses compagnons, dont les noms lui sont connus, attaquèrent les gardiens susdits, et frappèrent le susdit Agop, fils, de Trih, avec la balle du fusil, ce dont il fut blessé en six endroits. Ils frappèrent aussi fortement l'autre Agop avec des haches et des couteaux et des manches de pistolets, ce qui lui fit blesser beaucoup à son dos, à sa poitrine, et à son côté. Ils se sont armés et veulent achever les dits blessés. Cela ne laisse plus de doute. Voilà pourquoi nous faisons ce post scriptum.

Le 15 *Août*, 1296 (v. s.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 158.

Acting Consul Catoni to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 31.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Alep, le* 15 *Septembre*, 1880.

FAISANT suite à la dépêche adressée à votre Excellence par le titulaire de ce poste, Mr. le Consul Henderson, en date du 4 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de remettre ci-inclus à votre Excellence "en traduction" une nouvelle pétition que les Arméniens de "Ginour-Dagh" m'ont dirigée par l'entremise du Vice-Consulat d'Alexandrette. La dite pétition était accompagnée par deux lettres de recommandation de l'Evêque du district de Payas, dont ci-joint je transmets également à votre Excellence copies traduites en Français.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) A. CATONI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 158.

The Armenian Bishop of Payas to Acting Consul Catoni.

M. le Consul, *Le* 20 *Août*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de vous envoyer ci-joint la pétition que les habitants Chrétiens des villages mentionnés dans la pétition [*sic*] je les recommande à votre bienveillance, &c.

(Signé) Evêque Arménien.

La seconde lettre, datée le 24 Août, 1880, a absolument le même sens que la première, sauf quelques recommandations de plus pour protéger les Chrétiens, &c.

(Signé) Evêque Arménien.

Inclosure 5 in No. 158.

Acting Consul Catoni to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 33.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Alep, le* 30 *Septembre*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que par une communication verbale qui m'a été faite en dernier lieu par un certain Ovanes Effendi,

résidant de Payas, il résulte que par suite d'ordres supérieurs le Mutessarif de Barcket-Dagh s'est rendu, il y a quelques jours, à Payas et a procédé à l'examen des plaintes que les Arméniens de Ginour-Dagh avaient avancées contre les Musulmans de la dite localité.

Le dit fonctionnaire, à ce qu'il paraît, s'est beaucoup intéressé à la cause des Chrétiens et a fait tout son possible de rendre justice à leur réclamations. A cet effet il a ordonné l'arrestation immédiate de tous les coupables Musulmans, et ceci a beaucoup contribué à calmer les esprits de part et d'autre.

On prétend cependant que le Caïmacam de Payas continue encore à exciter clandestinement les Musulmans contre les Chrétiens, mais jusqu'à présent aucune preuve n'est produite à l'appui de cette assertion.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) A. CATONI.

No. 159.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 473.)
Therapia, October 19, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 464 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a telegram which has been communicated to me by the Persian Ambassador here, in regard to the incursion of Kurds into Persia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 159.

Persian Ministry for Foreign Affairs to Persian Ambassador at Constantinople.

(Télégraphique.)

DEUX fils Cheikh Obeidoullah, habitant Hackari, et Hamza Agha, de Mankour, connus pour leur perversité, Chefs d'une troupe de Malfaiteurs nomades comme eux, se sont livrés à des actes de pillage et de dévastation considérables à Lavoncheblock et Maragah. Des troupes ont été envoyées pour empêcher la sédition et punir les coupables. A l'étranger on ne connaît guère les habitudes et la nature sauvages des Kurdes de cette localité. Cette sédition n'a aucun caractère important. Il est facile de reconnaître que ces Kurdes n'ont d'autre but que le pillage auquel ils sont enclins. A la nouvelle de l'approche des troupes ces malfaiteurs ont pris la fuite des environs de Maragah.

(Communicated October 18, 1880.)

No. 160.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 477.)
Therapia, October 19, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 122 of the 6th July last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Barnham, containing his observations upon the returns of the population in the Vilayets of Kharpoot and Diarbekir, which were furnished me by the Armenian Patriarch in June last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 160.

Acting Vice-Consul Barnham to Major Trotter.

(No. 7. Political.)

Sir,

Kharpoot, September 25, 1880.

REFERRING to your telegram of the 16th instant, inquiring the number of Kurdish Aghas escaped from Aleppo and Sivas, I have to state that their number cannot be ascertained here or at Diarbekir with any accuracy.

On receiving repeated intimations on the subject from Mardin, Fakheen, and Diarbekir, I mentioned the matter to Ferid Bey, Inspector of Justice, urging him to take immediate steps for the rearrest of those who had escaped. Ferid Bey, acting upon my suggestion, telegraphed to Izzet Pasha at Diarbekir, who replied that the majority of the escaped belonged to the Sandjak of Sert and to Suverek, but that he had no information whether they had been retaken or not. The Mutessarif of Mardin had informed him that those who belonged to his district were at large in the desert, and he could not state their numbers. One, Seif-ud-din, of Suleivan, had surrendered himself to the Government of Diarbekir, but had been released on bail subject to a decision in his case by the Minister of the Interior. Ferid Bey subsequently expressed his opinion that nearly all those who had been imprisoned at Sivas were at large. Their numbers would probably be ascertained by a reference to Aleppo and Sivas respectively.

I regret to report a very unsatisfactory state of things in the neighbourhood of Chermook and Chengoosh. Last week a large body of Kurds from the district of Bosma, north of Chermook, made a raid upon the three villages of Sinjik, Sheikhla, and Tenikeni, also inhabited by Kurds. The village of Sinjik was plundered, fifteen of the inhabitants killed, and many wounded. It appears that there has been a long-standing feud between the men in the Bosma district and those of these villages, and the fighting was conducted with the greatest barbarity. One of the Kurds who was killed was afterwards horribly mutilated, his heart having been torn out of his body. Suleiman Bey, Mutessarif of Maden, went to Chermook with 100 soldiers, but I believe nothing has been done with a view to punish the offenders.

At Chengoosh there has been continual trouble owing to the misdeeds of one of the leading Turkish families. For twenty years or more Hassan Effendi, his brother, Hadji Mustapha Effendi, and his brother's son, Eshref Agha, have been a source of constant mischief. They oppress and persecute the people, and, although men of wealth and position, employ others to steal for them. They were upon Abédine Pasha's list of men to be banished from this district on the occasion of his visit here as Chief Commissioner, but as he had received orders from Constantinople to banish no more they were left undisturbed. Hassan Effendi two or three years ago burnt or caused to be burnt the house of Bedros, one of the chief merchants in Chengoosh, because the latter opposed his nefarious schemes. The crimes of the sons of Hassan and Mustapha are more conspicuous than those of their father's. Hassan Effendi's son recently attempted to rob one of the shops in the market at night, and because he was resisted by the watchman, killed him. He has not been arrested. Strict orders were telegraphed from Kharpoot to Maden for the arrest of the entire family. Hassan Effendi and Hadji Mustapha Agha were brought to Maden, but detained only a few weeks and sent back to Chengoosh on a special mission to collect the Government taxes. The Christian inhabitants of Chengoosh live in constant fear of these men, and it is very desirable that they should be banished.

Aziz Pasha is absent on a protracted tour. He is now occupied in regrouping the Mudirliks of this vilayet, in accordance with orders received from Constantinople. Groups of villages which contain a preponderating Christian population will be placed under a Christian Mudir, and *vice versâ*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM,
In charge of the Vice-Consulate of Diarbekir.

No. 161.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 26.*)

(No. 484.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 19, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches addressed to Major Trotter by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, relating to the state of the country to the west of the Lake of Van, and the proceedings of the Vali of Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 161.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 29. Political.)
Sir, *Van, September 20, 1880.*

IN accordance with the intention expressed in my despatch No. 27, Political, of the 7th instant, I have been to the other side of the Lake of Van to purchase grain. Whilst there I learnt that Hamzo, the notorious Haidaranli Kurdish Chief, has re-appeared and committed a number of robberies. His family live between Arjesh and El Jivas, and he periodically appears and conducts plundering parties, and when the attention of the authorities is aroused, and troops or zaptiehs are sent after him, takes refuge across the Persian frontier.

It also appears that the Circassians who have been planted in the villages in Boulamyk and Akhlat are very troublesome, and have lately been ill-treating the Kurds in whose villages they have been placed, forcing them to give them what they require, beating and wounding them, much in the same way as the Kurds have been in the habit of treating the Armenians, so that numerous complaints have been made by the Kurds to the authorities. A few days ago Circassians carried off all the horses from a Kurdish village. The Turks complained to the Kaimakam of Akhlat, who sent for the Circassians. The latter replied that they would hardly come if the Vali summoned them, and they certainly would not come for the Kaimakam. Afterwards they were persuaded to present themselves, but were allowed to depart again without any satisfaction having been obtained from them. Either the authorities do not feel strong enough to deal with them, or bribery has been successful.

On the other hand the Reis of the Armenian village of Aghagh, near Akhlat, a man much respected, informed me that the relations between the Kurds and the Armenians in that part had much improved, owing to the fact that during the stress of the past winter the Armenian villagers had done a good deal in helping and keeping alive destitute Kurds who were on the point of perishing in the cold and snow near the Christian villages. Moreover, the Vali of Bitlis has shown some activity and firmness in arresting and punishing some of the most notorious robber families, so that the rest are frightened, and now only secret nocturnal robbery occurs occasionally in the place of open, forcible pillage.

On the whole, therefore, there seems to be an improvement in the condition of affairs on the west side of the lake, except as regards the proceedings of Hamzo and the Circassians.

The harvest in those regions has also been very good, but the people are as yet very chary of selling their grain. They think that prices may go up again this year, as they did last winter, and hold back in hopes of greater gains, so that the price of corn at present is even higher than it was this time last year. But I think it must soon fall, when the thrashing is entirely completed, though I have not much hope that it will reach anything like its normal price, as on this side of the lake the deficiency is still great, though not so bad as last year.

I am sorry to say that there is a great deal of sickness, principally typhoid fever, in Van, owing to the number of refugees who came in during the winter in a famished state spreading disease, and to the unsatisfactory sanitary condition of the city. The death-rate is very high, and I fear that when more refugees come in, as will be the case when severe weather sets in, the mortality will increase. The refugees are in such a state when they arrive, that it appears they are unable to recover. During the winter and spring we had a soup-kitchen at work, but I regret

to say that it did not seem to be able to stem the mortality, as a very large proportion of those who were fed there regularly have died.

The Government are about to sell the produce of the tithes of the present year, I presume in order to obtain a supply of ready money. The result, however, will be that there will be no stores of grain available for distribution to distressed districts, as was done last winter, but the Vali is away at present for the purpose of reorganizing the communes according to the scheme sketched out by Abédine Pasha in his reply to the identic note of the Powers, so that I am unable to state what, if any, steps are to be taken by the Government to meet the distress which will certainly occur in some districts, especially Bashkala and Mahmoudié during the coming winter.

Owing to the unwillingness of the people to sell, I have as yet only been able to obtain a small quantity of grain, which I am proposing to sell at a reduced price in Van to enable the poor inhabitants to make some provision for the winter. As I am able to obtain more, I propose to send aid to Bashkala and Mahmoudié. Although the harvest is very much better this year than last, the distress will be very great in some parts, owing to the people having already parted with all their property, so that they have no means left to buy with, and I therefore fear that the mortality will be very great this winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 161.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 30. Political. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, September 20, 1880.*

ALTHOUGH, as I stated in my despatch No. 29, Political, of this day's date, the Vali of Bitlis has shown some activity in punishing notorious Kurdish robbers, yet, when I was on the other side of the lake, I was given to understand that he was very negligent in attending to complaints made to him, and was very venal and corrupt. In confirmation of the latter report, Mr. Bassam, in a letter I have this morning received from him, dated Bitlis, 15th September, says: "The Governor-General is trying, as I hear, to enrich himself as fast as possible through his tour of inspection, and part of his gains lately is a young girl, whom he has brought back with him from the Circassian Colony at or near Akhlat." He therefore does not appear to be a man well suited for introducing a better system of government into this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 162.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 26.*)

(No. 486.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 19, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copies of three despatches I have received from Lieutenant Chermside on the following subjects, viz.:—

No. 22.—Destruction of forests in the Ak-Dagh Mountains.
No. 24.—New system of taking tithes in Siwas Vilayet.
No. 25.—Settlement of refugees in Hafik Caza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 162.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 22.)

Siwas, September 26, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to again draw your Excellency's attention to the wanton and unchecked destruction of forests that is going on in the still wooded regions of this district.

Lieutenant Bennet, in a despatch No. 3 of the 3rd August, has drawn your Excellency's attention to the destruction going on in the Anti-Taurus. I was travelling at that time in the still scantily-wooded portion of that range which lies in this vilayet, and met daily long trains of ox waggons carrying timber to Kaisarieh. On my return I drew the Vali's attention to the fact. He had previously, as I informed your Excellency, sent a Circular to all the Governors in his district on the subject, and he sent a fresh order to the Azizieh Kaïmakam.

I have little hope that these orders will result in much until the question is seriously taken in hand by the Central Government and a proper departmental organization instituted.

I have recently been travelling in the Ak-Dagh, a prolongation to the south-west of the Tchamlu Bel Mountains, which are crossed between this and Tokat. It is a rounded range of gentle slope lying on the right bank of the Kizil Irmak, and though the destruction and wanton waste of the last ten years are very marked—as indicated to me by a man travelling with me who had not visited the ground for that period—there is still a good deal of fine pine timber. Its wooded portions are about equidistant from Siwas, Kaisarieh, and Yuzgat—60 to 80 miles from each. As each of these three towns lies in a district denuded of trees, the supply of timber for construction which the range is capable of furnishing is an important consideration. At present the finest timber is cut down for fire-wood, all the branches and smaller portions wasted, and, as in other forests, an immense amount of timber suitable for fire-wood left rotting on the ground. No thinning is ever resorted to, as the tracks are pushed forward to the more remote forests; these are successively absolutely destroyed. I was told that forest officials are expected to arrive for the portion of the district situated in the Angora Vilayet. The range joins on to the Tchamlu Bel, and at and near the Col, or water-shed crossed by the Siwas-Yuzgat road. Nothing but scrub now remains. Beyond this to the north-east comes the Tchamlu Bel, now almost completely denuded of fine timber.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 162.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 24.)

Siwas, September 28, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a new system of collecting the tithes has been introduced into the Siwas Vilayet for the current year.

Formerly the system of tithe buyers and farmers, or "maltezims," obtained very generally, though Government granaries existed, where tithes collected by Government in default of purchasers, grain from Government property, &c., was stored.

The tithe and sheep-tax is now being collected solely by Government officials. I append a Table which gives the staff and organization of this service. From this it will be seen that the total annual expenditure for the salaries of officials of this service amounts to 687,000 piastres; besides this there are the "shahanés," or weighers, the actual collectors, men appointed for a few weeks. I have not the exact number of these, and the duration of their functions is uncertain. I have estimated the total number at 869, and the duration of their employment at two months, which gives a further annual sum of 194,448 piastres, and a grand total of 881,448 piastres. Besides this, there must be considerable outlay for granaries, as the existing ones will not suffice for the storage of so much grain.

Much of the success of the experiment will depend on the disposal of the large stores of grain to be thus acquired in the most advantageous way to Government. Grain is often accumulated and not sold; thus, while Government this spring was buying up high-priced grain to send to Diarbekir, that in some of the Government

barns was not sold. The Government stores at Tönös have not been emptied for eight years; and recently 300,000 piastres' worth was thrown out of these magazines, the magazines of one caza alone, as rotten and worthless.

The inhabitants are, I understand, to deliver the grain at the Government stores. It is too soon to criticize the general administration of this service, but already I have seen indications that it is likely to partake of the general character of the administrative services. In one village of 200 houses I found very numerous "shahanés," or weighers, all mounted men; the inhabitants assured me there were no less than twelve who had all been in the place some days, and who were supported at the expense of the population. This must have evidently, from what I know of the organization, been due to some error, but such errors affect the population, and are ones the inhabitants cannot rectify for themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 162.

STAFF of the Tithe and Sheep-Tax Officials employed in the Vilayet of Siwas, with their respective monthly Salaries, according to the new Regulations.

Officials.	Class.	Monthly Salary.	Total.
		Frs.	Frs.
Director's Office.	2		
Director (Nazir)	..	3,500	
Head Clerk	..	1,750	
Head Assistant	..	600	
Second ditto	..	320	
Third ditto	..	240	
Head of the Correspondence ..	..	600	
Copying Clerk	..	240	
Registrar	..	200	7,450
SIWAS SANDJAK.			
Mudir's Office.	3		
Mudir	..	1,500	
Head Clerk	..	600	
Second ditto	..	350	
Third ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	3,090
Kotchgiri Caza.	2		
Official	..	800	
Head Clerk	..	480	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,920
Azizieh Caza.	2		
Official (M'Gregor)	..	800	
Head Clerk	..	480	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,920
Divrik Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690
Dereidj Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690
Gürun Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690
Tönös Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690

Officials.	Class.	Monthly Salary.	Total.
		Frs.	Frs.
Hafic Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690
Yildiz Ili Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690
Total Sandjak of Siwas ..	..	..	17,070
AMASIA SANDJAK.			
Mudir's Office.	3		
Mudir	..	1,500	
Head Clerk	..	600	
Second ditto	..	350	
Third ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	3,090
Marsivan Caza.	2		
Official	..	800	
Head Clerk	..	480	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,920
Kenpen Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690
Merjifat Kuzu Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690
Ladik Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690
Osmandjik Caza.	3		
Official	..	600	
Head Clerk	..	450	
Second ditto	..	240	
Granary Keeper	..	400	1,690

Officials.	Class.	Monthly Salary.	Total.
		Pts.	Pts.
Maden Sim Caza.	1		
Official		1,200	
Head Clerk		600	
Second ditto		320	
Granary Keeper		600	
			2,720
Total Amasia Sandjak		..	14,490
KARA HISSAR SHARKI SANDJAK.			
Mudir's Office.	3		
Mudir		1,500	
Head Clerk		600	
Second ditto		350	
Third ditto		240	
Granary Keeper		400	
			3,090
Ton Shekri Caza.	3		
Official		600	
Head Clerk		450	
Second ditto		240	
Granary Keeper		400	
			1,690
Hamidié Caza.	3		
Official		600	
Head Clerk		450	
Second ditto		240	
Granary Keeper		400	
			1,690
Kaglisser Caza.	3		
Official		600	
Head Clerk		450	
Second ditto		240	
Granary Keeper		400	
			1,690

Officials.	Class.	Monthly Salary.	Total.
		Pts.	Pts.
Elvasjid Caza.	3		
Official		600	
Head Clerk		450	
Second ditto		240	
Granary Keeper		400	
			1,690
Total Kara Hissar Sharki Sandjak		..	9,850
TOKAT SANDJAK.			
Mudir's Office.	3		
Mudir		1,500	
Head Clerk		600	
Second ditto		350	
Third ditto		240	
Granary Keeper		400	
			3,090
Zileh Caza.	2		
Official		800	
Head Clerk		480	
Second ditto		240	
Granary Keeper		400	
			1,920
Erbaa Caza.	3		
Official		600	
Head Clerk		450	
Second ditto		240	
Granary Keeper		400	
			1,690
Niksar Caza.	3		
Official		600	
Head Clerk		450	
Second ditto		240	
Granary Keeper		400	
			1,690
Total Tokat Sandjak		..	8,390

	Men Employed.	Monthly Salary.	
		Pts.	Pts.
Mudir's Office	..	7,450	
Siwas Sandjak	..	17,070	
Amasia Sandjak	..	14,490	
Kara Hissar Sandjak	..	9,850	
Tokat Sandjak	..	8,390	
Total of permanent service ..	..	..	57,250
Shahands and other minor officials employed in the collection of tithes—			
Siwas Sandjak	305	70,000	
Amasia Sandjak	238	51,446	
Kara Hissar Sandjak	170	39,890	
Tokat Sandjak	136	31,112	
Estimated total of temporary service	..	..	191,448
Grand total of expenses incurred in collection of tithes in the Vilayet of Siwas	..	..	251,698

"Shahands" are the officials employed to weigh the grain and to superintend the transfer of the tithe to the Government granaries.

N.B.—These latter functionaries are only paid during the actual time of employment, i.e. for two months in the year.

Inasmuch as the "shahands" and other minor officials, such as "muhurdjis" (sealers) mentioned above, are only paid during the actual time of employment, viz., two months in the year, whereas the salary of the regular staff of officials is permanent, the yearly cost of collecting the tithes will be—

57,250 × 12 + 194,448 = 687,000 + 194,448 = 881,448 pts.

Inclosure 4 in No. 162.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 26.)

Siwas, September 30, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I received a private intimation from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General for Anatolia to prepare a Report on the case of the establishment of Kars refugees in the Hafik Caza, as a protest from the Armenian villagers had been presented to your Excellency.

The case is one of those very numerous ones where the inhabitants object to the establishment of refugees on lands for which, however, they hold no title-deeds. As

in many cases the land has been practically theirs from time immemorial, it is often a great hardship for the villagers, and a matter in which, although legal right is in favour of the Government, equity would certainly decide for the villagers. In the case in point, and similar cases, the most that I do is to bring the complaint to the notice of the Government and ask for an inquiry, which, perhaps, prevents any illegal injustice being committed and sometimes results in a compromise. The case in point has been settled after such inquiry, and as the Christian population of the district has suffered from the burden of maintaining and establishing refugees infinitely less than the Moslem population, it is not one in which I would counsel the exertion of your Excellency's further influence in favour of the complainants. I append a copy of the petition received on the subject. The case is briefly this :—

The Refugee Commission decided to establish some Kars refugees on lands in the Hafik Caza, lying between the Armenian villages of Seifik, Tontoja, Bingöl, and Ishkhané. The villagers objected to the establishment of refugees on pasture land to which they laid claim by traditional right, and presented petitions to the Vali and the Consulate, and telegraphed to Constantinople to your Excellency and to the Minister of the Interior.

In consequence, the Vali received orders from the latter to inquire into the matter, and dispatched as Commissioners to visit the locality Odabashiar Garabed, an Armenian, and a Turk. These gentlemen decided that the land in question was waste, and reported accordingly. The villagers' objection was consequently overruled, and the original decision of the Refugee Commission confirmed. Eight to nine houses have been built on the site in question, and are inhabited by refugees.

The villagers' case fell through on legal grounds, owing to their having no title-deeds, though it is asserted their traditional right dates back from a very remote period.

The case being settled, I have not thought it well to visit the site subsequently and to make inquiries, as such proceedings are fruitful of discord between the new and old inhabitants.

If your Excellency is desirous of my opinion as to the effect of the decision on the villagers, I beg that instructions on the subject may be forwarded to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 162.

Petition presented by the Inhabitants of four Villages in the Hafik Caza to the Consulate-General.

(Translation.)

AS regards the settlement of the refugees from the Keur Pounar district of Kars, five of these men have settled down and are building a house on Seifik land, situated in the middle of the villages of Tontoja, Bingöl Chiftlik, Ishkhané Chiftlik, and Seifik, all lying in the Caza of Hafik, we protest against any such building, inasmuch as we who dwell in the villages in that district enjoy the privilege of watering our horses there, it being a well-known fact that this right has belonged to the inhabitants of the above-named four villages, having been handed down from father to son. Notwithstanding this, these refugees have built houses and settled down in this district, and have taken possession of the running stream which flows through that quarter, so that our horses are altogether cut off from their drink and will be destroyed.

Seeing, then, that it will be necessary for each and all of us to move our houses and household goods to some other district, we beg your Excellency kindly to have pity on us and to settle the refugees somewhere else, and so to be so good as to save our horses from dying of thirst.

We pray, therefore, for your intercession.

March 27, 1296.

(Signed by the poor of the Inhabitants of Seifik, Ishkhané, Bingöl, and Tontoja.)

No. 163.

C. *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.*—(*Received October 26.*)

(No. 487.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 19, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, in original, a memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, suggesting a scheme of reform for the provinces inhabited by Armenians "based on the Règlement Organique for the Lebanon."

He has prepared this scheme in view of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it would not be advisable to recommend to the Porte any form of direct European supervision for these provinces, as indicated in your Lordship's despatch No. 550 of the 6th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson on a Scheme of Reform for the Provinces inhabited by Armenians.

HER Majesty's Government being of opinion that it would not be advisable to recommend to the Porte any form of direct European supervision for the provinces inhabited by Armenians, it may be well to consider how far the Powers are prepared to press a definite scheme of reform upon the Porte, and what form such scheme should take.

If the Powers are prepared to press such a scheme, it will, I submit, be necessary to draft some law or statute which could be presented in the form of a demand. Such law might be drafted either by a Commission on which the Porte was represented, or by a Committee on which the Powers alone were represented by their Agents.

The law or statute should be very brief, and follow the lines of the "Règlement Organique" of the Lebanon rather than those of the Organic Statutes of Crete and Eastern Roumelia.

If the Powers are not prepared to press a definite scheme upon the Porte, I see little chance of the introduction of those reforms which every day become more necessary if the country is to be saved from anarchy.

The "Règlement" of the Lebanon consists of only eighteen Articles; yet it has, I believe, been found to work well, and to meet the requirements of a mixed population under circumstances not unlike those existing at present in the eastern vilayets of Asia Minor. It does not appear to be much liked by the Porte, possibly from the fact that the cost of administration is not covered by the revenue; this might be avoided in a law for the vilayets inhabited by Armenians.

The principal features of the Lebanon "Règlement" are:—

1. A Governor appointed by the Porte, with the approval of the Powers; the Governor is irremoveable, has full executive powers, appoints the administrative officials and the Judges, collects and controls the revenue and expenditure, convokes and presides over a Central Administrative Council, &c.

Each of the constituent elements of the Lebanon has a Vakil (Representative), elected by the Chiefs and Notables of the community, to watch its special interests.

2. A Central Administrative Council of twelve members, on which the constituent elements are represented according to number and wealth, with control over the revenue and expenditure.

3. Division of the Lebanon into seven "arrondissements," arranged so as to give, as far as possible, a large majority to one sect.

In each "arrondissement" an "Agent," appointed by the Governor, and selected from the dominant sect.

4. An Administrative Medjliss in each "arrondissement," of three to six members, representing the different elements of the population and landed property.

5. The "arrondissements" divided into "cantons," under "Agents" selected by the "Chefs des Arrondissements," and appointed by the Governor.

At the head of each village a Sheikh, elected by the villagers and appointed by the Governor.

6. Equality of all in the eyes of the law and abolition of feudal privileges.

7. Three Courts of First Instance for the whole Lebanon, each with a Judge and Assistant, appointed by the Governor, and six "Défenseurs d'Office," nominated by the communities.

At the seat of Government a Supreme Court, with six Judges, selected and appointed by the Governor from the six communities, and six "Défenseurs d'Office," nominated by the communities. When Protestants or Jews are interested in a suit, a Judge and "Défenseur d'Office" of those sects are added.

The President of the Supreme Court is appointed *ad hoc* by the Governor, who can also increase the number of Courts of First Instance when necessary.

8. The Sheikhs of villages act as "Juges d'Instruction," and can give judgment up to 200 piastres.

All cases in which the parties are of different sects must be tried by the Courts of First Instance.

All cases are decided by a majority of the Medjliss, but when the parties to a suit are of the same sect they may object to a Judge belonging to a different sect.

9. In criminal cases there are three degrees of jurisdiction: "contraventions" are tried by the village Sheikhs; "délits" by the Courts of First Instance; and "crimes" by the Supreme Court.

10. The Judges are appointed by the Governor; the members of the Administrative Council are elected in the "arrondissements" by the village Sheikhs; and the Sheikhs are elected by the villagers.

11. A mixed police force recruited from the people at the rate of 7 per 1,000 of the inhabitants. The Governor can call in the assistance of regular troops.

12. The revenue to go in the first place towards the expenses of administration. If there be any surplus, it is paid to the Porte; if a deficit, it is made good by the Porte.

The Porte does not hold itself responsible for public works or extraordinary expenses which it has not previously approved.

13. A census to be made by commune and by religion; also a cadastre of cultivated lands.

Certain modifications might be introduced into this "Règlement" to make it applicable to the vilayets inhabited by Armenians, especially in those sections which relate to the police force and to finance.

It is also worthy of consideration whether the Porte could not be pressed to appoint Europeans as "Defterdars" (Directors of Finance) and Commandants of Gendarmerie. The beneficial results already achieved by Mr. Lang, and the favourable reports of the Turkish employés in Cyprus, show how much can be done by intelligent European supervision, and that the subordinate civil servants of the Porte are quite competent to carry out the duties intrusted to them with honesty and ability under proper supervision and direction.

I would add that I feel very strongly that the moral tone of the Turkish Civil Service cannot be raised without some kind of European supervision or assistance.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

October 18, 1880.

No. 164.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 634.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1880.

I HAVE to request that you will thank Captain Everett for his excellent Report on the Porte's proposals with regard to Armenia and the actual state of affairs in his district, inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 435 of the 8th instant, which I have read with interest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 165.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, October 27, 1880.

I HEAR that Mr. Abbott left Ooroomiah last week for Tabreez, but had to come back, the roads being occupied by Kurds. He wrote from Ooroomiah, on the 7th instant, that the town was then menaced by the Kurds under two of Sheikh Obeidullah's sons, one, Sheikh Saddik, who had, with 1,000 men, taken position 24 miles off on the direct road from the frontier, and the other, Sheikh Abdul Kadir, who had advanced with a large force from Sowj-Bulak towards Maragha. It is now reported from Tabreez that the latter Chief, after having sacked Niandoab and massacred the inhabitants there, and having ravaged the country near Maragha, had withdrawn from that district on the arrival of reinforcements, and had marched to Ooroomiah. He had summoned the city to surrender. A delay of three days had been accorded at Mr. Abbott's request. The Governor was not in a position, a fortnight ago, to make a resistance, and it is doubtful whether reinforcements have since reached him. Mr. Abbott states, in his letter of the instant, that the American missionaries had informed him that they were on very friendly terms with Sheikh Obeidullah, and that they did not apprehend that he would molest the Christians if Ooroomiah were obliged to surrender; and Archbishop Cluzel, who is now in Ooroomiah at the head of large French missionary establishment, has expressed a similar opinion in his recent letters to Lazzarists here. The ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has had the title of Sepeh Salar Azm reconferred upon him, has during the last two days been having entrenchments dug outside the city, and barricades erected in streets at Tabreez.

(Sent to Viceroy of India.)

No. 166.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, October 28, 1880.

A [group wrong; ? certain] Sheikh Obeidullah, and also the brother of Hamzah Agha, Kurd, are said to have been killed by artillery fire in engagement near Maragha.

Taimur Pasha Khan with reinforcements interfered (*sic*) [? arrived] at Salmas on Sunday, and should now be in contact with Kurds near Ooroomiah. It is reported that Kurds cut off water supply of the town.

(Sent to Viceroy of India and Constantinople.)

No. 167.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 29.)

(.)
(No. 492. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, October 21, 1880.

My Lord,

MAJOR TROTTER, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, who has, at my request, remained for some weeks in Constantinople, in order that I might have the opportunity of conferring with him on Armenian reforms and other important subjects connected with his district, has applied for two months' leave of absence, which I have granted.

Major Trotter appears to me to have thoroughly mastered his work, and he will be able to give your Lordship much information with reference to all the interesting questions which have lately arisen in the neighbourhood of Van, Bayazid, and, indeed, in every other part of Kurdistan. He will be specially competent to communicate to your Lordship any details with reference to the movement amongst the Kurds.

Major Trotter has hinted to me that it is not improbable that he may wish to resign his post. On my inquiring the reason, I learnt that he, in common with others among our military Consuls, frets under the necessity of daily witnessing a state of anarchy and misgovernment which he has to report, but which he is almost powerless to affect for good. When these officers see the futility of remonstrance, and the

apparent absence of all result to their great efforts for the benefit of the population amongst which they move, they lose heart, and feel themselves in a false position.

I have conversed much with Major Trotter and Colonel Wilson as to the most practicable manner of effecting reforms without that actual efficient introduction of the European element into the Administration, to which I thought Her Majesty's Government would see insuperable objections. On receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 550 of the 6th instant, I communicated its contents to them, with the wish that they might assist in suggesting arrangements based on the views which that despatch expressed. Colonel Wilson, in reply, furnished me with a memorandum suggesting an organization similar to that worked out for the Lebanon. I forwarded this memorandum to your Lordship in my despatch No. 487 of the 19th instant.

Major Trotter has given me the memorandum, which I inclose, and which embodies the views he holds as to the present position of Consuls generally, and the measure of what they can and what they cannot accomplish.

I await your Lordship's instructions as to what the next step should be as regards reforms in Armenia. The Porte, in their first note of the 5th July last, stated what they were prepared to do. The utter inefficiency of their plan was exposed in the collective reply of the Ambassadors, dated the 7th September last.

The Porte in their note of the 3rd October do not go much beyond their previous proposal, except as regards the powers of the Governors to name a certain number of the officials.

It now remains for the Powers to determine what course should be adopted in view of the most inadequate plans of the Porte, which are in no sense a fulfilment of their obligations under the Treaty of Berlin.

Acting on your Lordship's instructions, I have not forced the question of the engagements of the Porte under the Cyprus Convention, except by the constant tacit assertion of our right of interference, consequent on the non-introduction of the proposed reforms. On one occasion only, namely, when objection was taken to Major Warlow's active inquiries at Ismid, that there were no British subjects to protect, have I reminded the Porte that the promise of the reforms made in the Cyprus Convention had given us the necessary *locus standi*.

Aḥdine Pasha, just before he left office, told me he had drafted a reply to the note, in which that intimation was conveyed, but no such reply was ultimately sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Memorandum.

HER Majesty's Government having decided to rely on the action of Her Majesty's Consular authorities for supervising the introduction of reforms in the Asiatic provinces of the Ottoman Empire, it seems desirable to consider what influence the Consuls actually possess under the present system.

During the past two years, I have had personal acquaintance and official relations with no less than seven different Valis. I have also had the opportunity of observing the relations existing between the Vice-Consuls at Erzeroum and Van, and the respective Governors of those provinces. I have therefore had no inconsiderable experience in the matter.

The influence that can be exerted by a Consul in the provinces is either—

1. Dependent on the influence of the Ambassador at Constantinople; or,
2. Personal.

As far as the first point is concerned, there can, I think, be no doubt that the influence of a Consul is directly proportional to the influence possessed by the Ambassador at the capital. If the latter be all powerful with the Turkish Government, the Consul, if a capable and energetic man, is master of the situation in the provinces. If the Ambassador have little influence at the capital, the Consul is without power in the country.

There can unfortunately be no doubt that the Ambassadorial influence, so to call it, wielded by the Consuls, has of late years, from a variety of causes, become gradually less and less. As long as the Sultan's Government was influenced by friendship, hope, or fear, remonstrances on the part of the Ambassador would meet with prompt attention, and redress would often follow. The friendship which once existed has now

been replaced by bitter dislike; hope has departed; and there remains nothing but fear on which to work. Hope and friendship do not seem likely to return, and fear is, at the best, but a sorry element to have to depend upon.

Moreover, in order that reforms should be effected, such a measure of decentralization will have to be adopted, that it will seldom be necessary to refer to the Porte on matters connected with provincial administration, in which case the Ambassador's influence at the capital will, as far as provincial misgovernment be concerned, be rarely called into operation.

One of the most potent weapons in the hands of the Consul, in the old days, was the knowledge possessed by the Vali that a well-founded unfavourable report by the Consul to the Ambassador would in all probability result in the dismissal from office of the official complained against.

Under the new system, the knowledge on the part of the Governor that he will be practically irremovable except in cases of glaring misconduct, will tend to diminish the Ambassadorial influence of the Consul. On the other hand, the local influence of the Consul will be increased by the knowledge on the part of subordinate officials that if the relations between Consul and Vali be satisfactory an unfavourable report from the former to the latter may, and probably will, insure their dismissal.

With a fairly complete system of decentralization then, without which, it seems to be generally admitted, no substantial reforms are possible, the influence exerted by the Consul will be comparatively independent of the Ambassador, but will depend almost entirely on the personal influence wielded by the Consul with the Vali and other local officials.

Now of the seven Valis with whom I have had official relations there are only two on whom I feel sure I could exert a great and beneficial influence, viz., Abdul Rahman Pasha, formerly at Diarbekir, now Governor of Bagdad, a well meaning, but I fear somewhat weak Governor, and Aziz Pasha, the new Vali of Kharput, a very intelligent and well-intended man.

There are others, such as Izzet Pasha of Diarbekir and Mustapha Pasha of Erzeroum, of *mauvaise volonté*, incapable and so entirely unsympathetic that, as I know from experience, I can do little or no good with them. I do not think that Captain Everett is more successful in his relations with Mustapha Pasha than I have been, and I am sure that Captain Clayton, at Van, would be the first to admit that his personal influence with Hassan Pasha is very small indeed. The disgraceful state of the frontier vilayets is of itself sufficient confirmation of what I state.

If, therefore, Consular supervision is to be effective, it would seem necessary to make important alterations in the status and position of the Consuls. An arrangement on this subject might, perhaps, be come to under the Convention of the 4th June, 1878.

In dealing with the subject of Consular supervision, moreover, I fail to perceive how, except under the Cyprus Convention, Her Majesty's Government could claim for Her Majesty's Consuls any right to interfere in the internal administration of the country, that would not be equally possessed by the Consular Representatives of the other Powers. In Colonel Wilson's jurisdiction, the European Powers, except at the seaports, are only very scantily represented; but in the Kurdistan Consulate alone, where the difficulties in the way of good administration are, I imagine, far greater than in Anatolia proper, we find—

At Erzeroum: A Russian Consul-General and staff, a French Vice-Consul (a Persian Consul-General).

At Diarbekir: A Russian Consul, a French Vice-Consul (just appointed) (a Persian Consul).

At Van: A Russian Vice-Consul (a Persian Vice-Consul).

During the past two years the European Consuls, doubtless acting under instructions from their Governments, have maintained a perfectly quiescent attitude, and I am on the best of terms with all my Consular colleagues; but there can be no manner of doubt that, at a hint from their superiors, the influence of some, or all, of the foreign Consuls might easily be directed in a sense adverse to the policy of Her Majesty's Government, or, indeed, any one of their number might (in a country so thoroughly wrapped up in intrigues), by an independent attitude of hostility, counteract, partially or wholly, the efforts made by Her Majesty's Consul for the better government of the country.

Her Majesty's Government proposes further "to rely mainly on the undoubted benefit to the population which would be secured by the appointment, for a fixed term, of the office of Vali, of men who have proved themselves to be capable and honest,

and to the decentralization of the Local Governments, so as to render them more independent than they now are from the baneful influence of the capital."

I have constantly advocated the theory, that it is men rather than measures that are wanted, and I fear it will be extremely difficult to find a sufficiency of competent and honest Valis and Mutessarifs.

I am preparing a list, for communication to Her Majesty's Ambassador, of some persons whom, I believe, would make good Governors. I shall also add a list of some persons who are thoroughly conversant with the state of the frontier provinces, and whose services might be usefully employed on a Commission for drawing up a detailed scheme for the better administration of the country.

I understand that Colonel Wilson has proposed the formation of such a Commission, and that it should draw up a Constitution based on that of the Lebanon. I fully concur with Colonel Wilson that such a Commission will be necessary, but it is very possible that the Turkish Government may strongly object to the formation of a large semi-independent State under a single head on the frontier of their hereditary enemies —as a Turkish official said to me the other day, "There will only be one man to buy instead of several."

However, in the interests of humanity, it is desirable to bring about as early as possible some settlement of the question which may give security to life and property.

A continuation of the misgovernment which exists everywhere, and the anarchy which prevails to an alarming extent in many parts of the province, must, if left unchecked, ultimately cause the ruin of the country, and will inevitably, sooner or later, give rise to interference on the part of Russia.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.

Therapia, October 19, 1880.

No. 168.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 29, 10·15 P.M.)

(No. 338.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 29, 1880, 12·10 P.M.

I HEAR from Van that Governor of Suraia has fled, and that Sheikh Obeidullah has himself crossed frontier into Persia.

No. 169.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 30, 12·5 P.M.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, October* 30, 1880.

THE statement made by the Porte through their Chargé d'Affaires, contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 72, is not reconcilable with purport of letters addressed by Sheikh Obeidullah himself to Governor of Oroomiah and to American missionaries there, for communication through Her Majesty's Consul-General to Her Majesty's Government.

In these he distinctly states that his son has been sent to Persia to obtain redress for Kurdish grievances; Kurds have suffered much ill-treatment from both Turkey and Persia, and that he now desires to establish a united Kurdistan.

(Sent to Viceroy of India.)

No. 170.

Consul Billotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 34. Political.)
My Lord, *Tripoli, October* 1, 1880.

FROM the town of Kerassond, which I reached on the 11th ultimo, I proceeded to the westerninost limit of the district of the same name, travelled inland, returned from thence to the sea-shore, and pushed again in the interior of the country at a distance of 14 hours, from which point I crossed into the district of Tripoli.

With few exceptions near the sea-shore, the district of Kerassond is so mountainous, especially southwards, that in many places peasants must hold fast by ropes in order to sow and reap their crops on the precipitous slopes which are the only lands at their disposal. As the soil is washed away its productive capacity is gradually exhausted, and its present average yield does not exceed 10 to 1.

However, this district is rich in nut-tree plantations, which cover the greater part of the land that can be brought under cultivation.

Kerassond is divided into four nahiés (cantons), which are respectively inhabited as shown hereafter:—

	Mussulman.	Greek.	Armenian.	Total.
Abtal, or Piraziz	2,857	1,240	85	4,182
Boulandjak, or Akkouy ..	5,051	711	21	5,783
Kerassond, proper	7,314	1,703	297	9,404
Kéchab	7,240	875	..	8,115
Total	22,462	4,619	403	27,484

Noufous or males giving a total of about 60,000 souls.

As in the neighbouring district, the Greeks in that of Kerassond emigrated from Gumushané about 150 years ago.

Abdal, which is the nahié confining to Ordoo, is the only one where there are Kentchébés (life-tenants); they comprise about half the Christian and Mussulman population.

Their condition being identical to that of the Kentchébés at Ordoo, I shall not repeat here what I have already stated elsewhere, but shall limit myself to say that they are subject to the same compulsory labour and brutal treatment, as well as to plunder, vexations, and extortions, as in the neighbouring district. But the conditions of the tenure of land are less advantageous here, from 10 to 20 per cent. on the produce being taken, instead of a moderate rent.

Plantations of hazel-nut trees, which existed of old in the eastern nahiés of Kerassond, have been extended since some years in that of Abtal, as well as in the easternmost villages of the district of Ordoo, which I had not had occasion to visit during my last trip there.

It was agreed with landlords that half the trees planted by tenants should belong to the latter, who in some cases paid the value of half the land in order to become sole owners of that portion of the plantation. These transactions have given rise to many abuses on the part of the Beys and Agas, for which tenants have never been able to obtain redress.

Abtal is the only nahié of Kerassond from which Christians emigrated this year to Russia.

The number of families that departed in May last is—

From Bazarsoo	38; out of 52	
„ Tépékeuy	17	„ 80
„ Lémen	8	„ 150
„ Demirdjikeuy	13	„ 80
Greek families	75	

The whole Christian population of this nahié, and part of that of the others, were bent on emigrating when they were induced to desist from their project owing to Sirri Pasha having promised to ameliorate their condition, and to the Acting Kaïmakam, Mehmed Ali Effendi, having taken the hopeful measure of apprehending a few of the magnates who oppressed the inhabitants.

Unluckily, this first step in the right direction having remained without final result, Christians reverted to their former idea of emigration, 7 Greek families from Kalé Gumegi, 4 from Bozat, 12 from Demirdjikeui, as well as 15 from Tépékeui; total, 38 families removed to Russia within the last month. The latter 15 families left under the leadership of a priest who had been threatened with death by a certain Tiraloglou Ali Aga, of Abtal, of whom more later.

Other families are making preparations of departure, but I am under the impression that several, especially in the eastern nahiés, talk of emigrating without serious intention of so doing.

Christians here are not like in other districts, inclined to emigrate; they

expatriate themselves with great reluctance, but say that no other option is left to them.

I conceive that the best means to give an accurate idea of the condition of this part of the vilayet, and to render comprehensible the motives which induce not only Christian tenants but also landowners, to remove to Russia, is to cite examples of extortions and vexations.

Mussulmans themselves speak of removing elsewhere.

Sayanoglou Lazari, of Cheikhli, who had purchased from Kaynadarogloo Osman Bey, of Ordoo, for 1,200 piastres, a plot of land which he had planted with trees, was evicted by the Bey's armed followers, and on his applying to the local authorities for redress, was advised by the Greek Primate to desist from his claim as his life would be endangered.

Sahagogloo Lucas, of Gheiche, was compelled two years since by threats of death to renounce claiming the restitution of a hazel-nut grove belonging to his wife, of which Ghedikalogloo Ahmed Aga, of Ehualy, had arbitrarily taken possession.

He likewise seized a hazelnut plantation belonging to Lazari Semerdjiogloo, of Bazarsoo, which he still holds, together with a house worth 150*l.*, which the latter had built near a spot where Ahmed Aga erected one for himself. Lazari's house, after having been inhabited by the Aga during the construction of his own house, is since four years detained for the use of his attendants, while the owner remains houseless.

The same Ahmed Aga had tapoos issued in his name with money obtained from the inhabitants of Demirdjikeui under the pretext of getting title-deeds for them.

Two years since he asked the inhabitants of Demirdjikeui to pay part of his brother's exemption money from the military service. Stoforos Yorghi and Yailanenoglou Nicola having refused to comply with this request, they were so brutally thrashed that the village, in dread, immediately handed him 30*l.*

Twelve families of Laz emigrants having been located last year in the vicinity of Demirdjikeui, he exacted from the inhabitants 121½ medjidiés (22*l.*), under the pretext of obtaining their removal; but the Lazes are still there.

Last year, Haralambo Karabissarli, after a fortnight's compulsory labour, was again summoned to work, and, on his objecting, was so severely stabbed by one of Ahmed Aga's followers that he was bedridden for several months. A zaptieh sent to apprehend the culprit was soundly thrashed by him, and the matter ended there.

At the village of Lémén, one of Ahmed Aga's men having requisitioned horses, Haralambo Deliyanoglou, who refused to give his, was shot at, but missed. Next day all the peasants sent their horses.

Last year Ahmed Aga's followers compelled muleteers transporting goods to abandon them on the road, and to convey him to the Yayla.

Elevated plateaux, belonging to the inhabitants of several villages, Mendekhor, Abulhair, Pachakonaghi, &c., and other private landed property, were seized by the same Aga, sometimes by means of illegal tapoos delivered to him by the present Memours, who is his relative, sometimes without even taking the trouble to resort to this expedient.

It is useless to speak of cattle-lifting and other small thefts which are daily perpetrated by Ahmed Aga's men. Mussulmans are treated in exactly the same manner.

I met an old Turk, of about 60 years of age, who was proceeding to convey the Aga to his winter residence. The old man's two sons being in the army, there was no one else to attend to his and their families, who, in the meantime, were shivering under the snow in the Yayla. He was asking me how long this state of things would be allowed to last.

This Ahmed Aga is the head of the Ghedikaloglou family, to whom, as well as to that of the Tiraloglous, represented by Ali, Ibrahim, and Abdullah Agas, belongs nearly the whole of the Nahié of Abdal.

The oppressive acts of Tiraloglou are identical to those of the Ghedikaloglous, both of whom keep a gang of armed followers, and have a host of relatives that come in as second rank oppressors.

Of Tiraloglou Ali Aga I shall cite as an example of the extent to which he pushes his extortions what an European gentleman engaged here in mining operations related to me. He used to watch the miners when they received their week's wages, and to exact a share therefrom—a practice to which the gentleman in question put a stop.

Ali Aga's son, with a number of his men, openly plunders the inhabitants, who do not dare to complain.

Just before my arrival at Kerassond he robbed two Mussulman travellers, Mekkeli Hadji Moustafa and Derwish Mahmoud, who claimed against him, without success. The inhabitants wondered that I believed the Government of Kerassond would venture to order the apprehension of Ali Aga's son.

Marriage fees varying from 1*l.* to 5*l.*, sometimes more, are exacted by the Beys and Agas from the Mussulmans in this nahié and the neighbouring villages of Ordoo. When there is more than one competitor for the same girl she is given against the will of the parents and her own to the higher bidder.

Hassanréizogloo Hussein Réïz, of Mendekhar, paid to Ahmed Bey, of Ordoo, 8*l.* to obtain the bride that he wished for his son.

Kouroukeusscogloo Hadji Hassan, of the same village, gave 15*l.* to Tiralogloo Ali Aga and Abdullah Aaga, who caused the daughter of Daoudogloo Hassan to be carried off and married to the former.

While Kassabogloo Arif, betrothed to the daughter of Douyoonogloo Hassan, of Mustafali, was serving in the army she was married against her will and that of her parents to Djindjogloo, who paid 3,000 piastres to Hazinedaroglou Ahmed Bey, of Ordoo.

The same Ahmed Bey, who is Acting Mudir in the Yayla (summer resort of the sea coast populations) has been promised by Teberkozogloo Halil to be in his service during ten years without salary if he would give him the wife (mother of two children) of Eumer Topdjioglou Osman, of Elmaly, who is in the army since eight years. As she and the parents do not consent, Ahmed Aga, to compel them to do so, detained since a week Eumer's brother in prison, and was trying to apprehend the other brother who related the occurrence to me at Bozat.

Scherifé, wife of Karahalilogloo Ali, who serves as soldier since eight years, has been carried off six months since by Topouzogloo Hassan, one of Ahmed Bey's men. She longs to return to her two children, but the dread of the Bey deters all her relatives from claiming her.

In the Nahié of Boulandjak the inhabitants are landed proprietors, but some of the old Derebeys, though possessing no longer their former extensive estates, continue to maintain by acts of oppression and extortion their authority on the population.

The principal is the numerous family of Karaibrahimogloo, of Aywassil, a few other individuals of influence, such as the Mufti, &c., and sometimes Christians add their exactions to those of the descendants of the Derebeys, many of the latter of whom hold Government employments, while others are no better than brigand chiefs.

Boulandjak itself being a borough, where several wealthy persons are to be found, depredations are here of more importance than in other places.

All the inhabitants of the coast are in the habit, owing to the malaria which prevails there during the summer months, to repair to high plateaux ("yaylas"). As their removals from and to the sea coast are favourable opportunities for highway robberies, in which the Beys or Agas are principals or accessories, the former used to deposit their valuables in the strong-built church of the borough as the safest place to keep them.

Three years ago it was broken into and despoiled of about 2,000*l.*, mostly consisting of women's gold ornaments. Only one of the thieves was captured and condemned to three years' imprisonment. The whole sum recovered was 50*l.*, the remainder, I am told, was divided between them and the Government officials. The principal in the robbery, a relative of the Karaibrahimogloos, being at large and threatening the inhabitants, they desisted from pushing further the matter, they having no protection to expect from the Government, and their callings compelling them to move continually from village to village.

Last year, when the inhabitants of Boulandjak were removing to the yayla, they were waylaid by a party of twelve armed followers of the Tiraliogloos, and despoiled, women included, of the very clothes they had on their backs. A young Greek, Sawas Deliyanogloo, who ventured to expatiate with the brigands, was badly wounded. Another Greek, who was on good terms with Ibrahim Bey, and whose mother-in-law formed part of the caravan, claimed the restitution of the effects. He was shown by Ibrahim Bey himself the lot of the spoils, from which he picked up those belonging to his relative. When this year Mehmed Ali Effendi was appointed Acting Kaimakam of Kerassond, the Greeks, in the hope to obtain redress, applied to him, but other

Mussulmans than the real brigands were apprehended by Ibrahim Bey, whom no one ventured to accuse, and of course the affair was allowed to drop.

Nafouz Aga, who is the chief brigand of the Karaibrahimogloos, being three years ago called to serve as soldier, repaired in the bazaar of Boulandjak and in the surrounding villages, threatening to kill any one who should refuse to give him money to exempt himself from the service. Nicola Vellissaridi, having not complied with his request, received a cutlass-wound on the head. Nafouz collected in no time the money he required.

Two years since Nafouz, being in want of money, walked in the market, and simply took 5,000 piastres, which he knew a certain Ermenogloo was carrying on his person.

It would be too long to cite all the depredations which are perpetrated here.

As a rule, the huts which the inhabitants of the coast erect at the yayla are destroyed on their return to the sea-shore, while here the trees of their gardens are cut down, their crops destroyed, and their houses plundered.

The inhabitants pretend that no theft or depredation takes place without the connivance or consent of the Karaibrahimogloos, who, besides, subjects them to all kinds of vexations and extortions. Whenever malefactors, even murderers, happen to be apprehended, they easily manage to obtain their release.

A great deal is said against the Mufti of Boulandjak, residing at Yasli Baghtché, but no one ventures to openly accuse him, he being rich and powerful. Two cases only:—

After having paid in fees and presents 5*l.* to obtain permission to marry, Taugheloglou Osman was told by the Mufti that the girl was betrothed to another, which is not the case. The truth is that the Mufti wishes to give her as wife to one of his servants, against her will and that of her parents.

Having received 10*l.* from Alidjanoglou Mehmed, of Adakeuy, the Mufti caused a girl, betrothed to Ali Karaogloo, of the same village, to be carried off by his own men and forcibly married to the former.

The Mufti is also accused of abusing the Christian religion, and to set the bad example which is followed by the Beys, Agas, and his co-religionists in general with impunity. Four years ago he went so far in his abuses that the Christians petitioned the Patriarchate, and handed the petition to the Bishop of Gumushané. He was offered 50*l.*, which he refused, but ultimately the affair was allowed to drop.

Owing to the Mufti's influence, his son perpetrates most daring outrages with impunity. A few years ago, having carried off the wife of Yani Melesliogloo, of Karahissar, who was rescued a few days later, he was arrested, but set at liberty shortly after.

Last year, having broken into the house of Keymetogloo Aliosman, of Yasli Baghtché, to carry off his wife, the Mufti's son badly wounded him in the thigh. The culprit was apprehended, but found the means to come out of prison at night, and to repair at the house of Osman, who was still bedridden in consequence of the wound received. He threatened him with death unless he promised to declare that he could not identify his aggressor. Carried next day into town for the purpose, Osman, under the fear of the threat and the promise of a pecuniary compensation—which, of course, he never received—stated as he had been bidden, and the culprit was immediately released.

To complete the picture of the anarchy which prevails all over, I shall cite a few cases of extortions and plunder in the Nahiés of Abdal and Boulandjak on the part of others than principal magnates.

Three months ago the wife of Ibrahim Oustaogli Topal Ali, of Yasli Baghtché, was carried off and outraged by five Mussulmans of Adakeuy, who, to prevent her escape, kept her bound up during a week. The perpetrators of the outrage were arrested, but released a few days after, the owner only of the house in which the woman was found being fined 20 medjidiés.

A fortnight since Tekerogloo Omer's wife was carried off. No measures were taken by the Government to rescue her.

In 1878 Tavridi, of Boulandjak, was robbed of values amounting to 1,000*l.* He sued the thieves, but his life being threatened by them, and finding no protection in the Government, he desisted from his claim.

Seven years since two plots of land, held by Ibidjioglou Moustafa, of Bozat, in force of title-deeds, were seized by two Mussulmans of the same village, who are protected by a Hodja of some influence. Moustafa has hitherto been unable to obtain

restitution, though he procured orders for the purpose from Trebizond and Constantinople; he has now no means to prosecute.

Yeraghabogloo Haralambo, of Demirdjikeni, after having paid to Mustafa Parispatzogloo a sum of 2,700 piastres, instead of 700 piastres, the sum agreed between them for a land which he had planted with trees, was ultimately evicted. Having claimed, his house was destroyed by Ibrahim, for which outrage he has been unable to obtain redress from the local authorities.

The Merigogloos of Adabazar, without any titles whatever, seized the forest-lands which Tekmenogloo Ibrahim had tilled. In order to intimidate him they burnt down his house, threatened him with death, and, to terrorize him, dug up a grave for him and laid a coffin before his door. He uselessly applies, since May last, for protection from the Government.

Tamouroglou Mehmed, of the same village, has been treated in a like manner.

Seven years ago the Mussulmans and Christians of Abdal and Boulandjak delegated to Constantinople a certain Vassilogloo Dimitri, in order to explain the state of things, and especially to obtain the settlement of the land question and the issue of tapous in the name of the lawful owners.

The Porte sent here, as Special Delegate, a certain Mehmed Effendi, to whom the Agas offered a bribe of 400*l.*, which he refused to accept. They then prevented the peasants to repair in the town, and he was so plagued by the Agas when he proceeded himself to the villages that Mehmed Effendi, quite disgusted, returned to Constantinople without having fulfilled his mission. As the Tapoomemoor was related to the Agas, and could favour them, the inhabitants made a fresh application to the Governor-General at Trebizond. A Cavzogloo Osman Effendi was dispatched to investigate the case, but he so dealt with the peasants that he compelled them to flee to the mountains. The Agas, availing themselves of the circumstance, had the titles issued in their names. Then Christians made up their minds to emigrate, and have so done since that time in small batches, but Mussulmans have not even the possibility to expatriate themselves. To the increased insecurity which prevailed during the late war, and to the disorganization which followed it, as well as to the loss of all hope of better days, is due the general exodus of Christians which was about to take place in May last. Letters received from this year's emigrants state that they received lands, that rations are issued to them, that they are well treated, and that they are perfectly satisfied with their lot in Russia.

Five years previously thirteen Greek families of Boulandjak emigrated to Russia, but were sent back a few months later, owing to their not being provided with passports. They state that they returned here with the greatest regret.

Ever since the fore-mentioned incident the Agas persecute the ex-Delegate Vassilogloo Dimitri and his relatives. They have been robbed on different occasions, and not later than three days before my arrival at Boulandjak their storehouses were plundered of goods of a value of 100*l.* It is believed to be a retaliation for Dimitri having accompanied me as guide in my present trip.

There being no influential descendants of Dere Beys in the Nahiés of Kerassond proper and Kechab, the power for evil which they assume in the villages of the other nahiés is here in the hands of Beys in the town, or of persons who can command dread in the villages. Amongst the latter are several Mussulman and Christian Mouklitars.

Here also no security exists for property, there is not a village in which there are no claims for lands unlawfully seized. It would be too tedious to enumerate cases after the examples that I have already cited, and to which they are identical.

Complaints are especially made in the Nahié of Kerassond against a Mutli Bey, and his son-in-law, Kendj Aga, who are represented to be the tyrants of the canton, and whose relatives are in the Medjlisses.

A certain Arif Kurdogloo and relatives are the terror of the southern villages, and especially at Kerk Harman and neighbourhood. On the 23rd ultimo four women and two men, proceeding to a church at some distance from the village, were robbed of even the clothes they were wearing, and one of the men, who offered resistance, was stabbed.

In consequence of a quarrel between a Greek and one of the Arif's men, he repaired on the 9th ultimo, with twelve armed followers, in the village to levy a fine, but exacted only 12 medjidiés, owing to the interference of other Mussulmans.

Eighteen years since the Kurdogloos seized 300 donums of land, the property of the inhabitants of Kerk Harman, who ever since have uselessly claimed their

restitution. On their sending, seven years ago, a Yani Pitropos to Constantinople to renew their demand, the Kurdogloos surrounded the church in which the inhabitants were attending service, wounded five of them and made off with the gold ornaments of the women. However, the Porte having recognized the right of the Greeks, sent a special Delegate to restore their lands to them; but he was compelled to retreat under a heavy fire from the Kurdogloos. Two months since, having been summoned by the Government to appear at Kerassond for trial, they answered with contempt. They threaten with death Petropo, who, knowing them to be good as their word, has not ventured since seven years to return to his village.

Outrages are not perpetrated only by Mussulmans.

Two years since a Greek of Prassari, Hassanogloo Giorgi, was murdered, and judging from appearances, put to death after having been subject to torture. His body, which was discovered hands and feet bound up, bore marks of strangulation, and was shockingly mutilated; all the teeth had been pulled out. No doubt remains to his family that the perpetrators, or at least the instigator, of the outrage is another Greek, Karasawaogloo Haralambo, who had sworn vengeance in consequence of money matters. No steps were taken to arrest him.

Two months ago an Armenian, Hatchadoor Hadjik, who, together with a Kelechogloo Halil, had just carried off a Mussulman woman, killed in cold blood his co-religionist Kaloust Yayladjian, of Ghaviche, on his endeavouring to prevent him to commit depredations in his plantation of tobacco. The murderer was apprehended.

Acts of spoliation on the part of Christians are not unknown in this district. In general, the victims of robbery fear to denounce the perpetrators thereof. If the latter cannot avenge themselves their protectors do so.

There is so little security on the roads that peasants of distant villages are obliged to travel several together for mutual protection. In the Nahiés of Kerassond proper and Kechab, Christians, like at Boulandjak, complain of their religion being derided by Mussulmans.

They stated to me, in the villages in the vicinity of Tchal, that zaptichs used to take their station at the church-door for the purpose of collecting taxes or apprehending those who did not pay, and that they did not spare blows and blasphemous words in this exection of this duty. To such point, they said, were these practices pushed that peasants were often deterred from frequenting church.

Rapts of Christian women, which are almost unknown in other cazas, seem to be here of not rare occurrence. A few families emigrated to Russia in consequence of similar outrages.

There is a general complaint with respect to abuses in the collection of the tithe; but I do not know how far they are grounded, for on the Governor-General having adopted this year a more strict system of collection, the quantity of hazel-nuts collected attained 20,000 cwt., instead of 10,000 cwt., which was the usual average. The crop was plentiful, it is true, near the sea-coast, but it failed entirely in the inland villages.

I rather believe that, in the case of the tithes as well as in that of the "emlak" (property tax) the poorer class is burdened with an illegal surplus, which should fall on the rich landowners. A single example:—

Hassanogloo Halil, of Boulandjak, paid 55 piastres as tithe for 7½ cwt. of hazel-nuts, and Ahmed Aga only 130 piastres for upwards of 300 cwt.

It was worse when the tithes were farmed out; five years ago they were purchased by a Mussulman and three Greeks, who plundered, in a shameless manner, all the villages of the district.

After having collected the real amount, they claimed nearly as much again in force of a forged list.

In some cases the addition was superior to the original claim. In order to obtain their ends, the farmers paid high bribes to the authorities. The balance of this additional tithe was collected last year with the utmost rigour. Owing to compound interest, exorbitant prices are now asked for the small balances that remained unpaid.

Peasants are also ruined by usurers, especially Christians, who advance money to them on their coming produce, which, when given, is reckoned at below the market price; but when, owing to the failure of the crop or of some other circumstance, the produce cannot be furnished, it is reckoned at an exaggerated value, and the same process is repeated from year to year.

Dervishogloo Ali, of Boulandjak, when called to serve as seaman in the Imperial

Navy, had, amongst other debts, one for 7*l.* to an Armenian which, during his absence of four years, augmented to 22*l.* He owed, besides, 33*l.*, which, with interest, represents now 52*l.* As the value of all the landed property he possesses is below the sum of 74*l.*, his creditors sue him for obtaining bonds for the balance. Dervishogloo's wages for his services in the Imperial Navy, amounting to 3,300 piastres, have not been paid to him.

On my road to Karali I saw about 200 peasants employed in the construction of the Karahissar road, which has been earnestly undertaken again since three months. They have to work six days each without wages or rations, and bitterly complain.

Mussulmans generally say that while their sons are most rigorously enrolled, sometimes unlawfully, those of the Beys, Agas, and other notabilities are exempted from military service, so that the burden of conscription falls on the poorer classes. The arrears due, and which have been remitted by the Sultan, have been entirely collected.

The tenetunt tax is just being established in this district, without distinction of individuals addicting themselves or not to industries.

The public force consists of thirty-two zaptiehs, not one of whom is mounted.

It now only remains to me to say a few words with regard to the Laz emigrants, about 400 families of whom have been located in this district. Abuses and injustices, as in other districts, have also taken place here on that occasion, but on a reduced scale; depredations, of not so serious a character as elsewhere, are committed by themselves, but I believe that many are perpetrated under their name by natives, in fact, none without the concourse of the latter. I have seen some of their settlements; the huts erected for them at Tépékeny are most miserable, and unfit to live in in winter. The ground allotted to forty families in that village is hardly sufficient for half the number; they say so themselves, but no one seems to have special charge to find lands for them.

Forty families are at Kestané Déré, in the district of Kerassond proper, without lands or houses. They have to receive arrears of rations, which they cannot obtain. The inhabitants of the villages near which they reside, whether Christians or Mussulmans, are loud in their complaints.

Immediately after my arrival at Kerassond, the Russian Acting Consul repaired there, and returned the day after to Trebizond.

I must state, in explanation of my slow progress over the extensive district of Kerassond, that the mountain-paths, which are very difficult at all times, were rendered very dangerous and almost impracticable by heavy rains, which also detained me some days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 171.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 36. Political.) *Tripoli, October 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN conformity with instructions from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, under date of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to submit my observations upon the Porte's reply to that part of the identic note of the Great Powers which relates to Armenia.

The proposed measures of remodelling the nahiés (cantons), appointing Circuit Judges, and locating gendarmes in each canton, are most essential.

However, so far as is concerned this province, especially the part of it that I have just visited, there are local circumstances which should not be lost sight of in dealing with the reforms in question. Other parts of Anatolia may, perhaps, be in identical circumstances.

The situation here is this:—

1. Property, honour of families, and life are in the hands of a class of individuals, Beys, Agas, or others, whose power being in fact, if not in appearance, far superior to that of the Porte, secures to them perfect impunity.

2. The dread they inspire, owing to their having at their disposal a number of armed ruffians, is such, that the populations submit to all kinds of oppression, vexations, and extortions without daring to apply for redress.

3. Their so doing to the local authorities in the present state of things would only result in bringing new misfortunes on them on the part of the ruling class.

4. Directly or indirectly, the latter have a hand in nearly all cases of cattle lifting and small thefts, which are of daily occurrence, as well as in more important robberies. If the latter are not so frequent, it merely depends on there being a limited number of inhabitants who can be despoiled of much.

5. The offences against the law that now take place represent the limit to which Beys, Agas, and others choose to push their dastardly acts.

6. Owing to the want and inefficacy of the police, the local authorities are powerless to prevent their going further if they liked to do so.

7. The above alluded Beys, Agas, or their relatives are members of the Medjlisses, and fill up most other Government employments.

8. The Governors, Cadis, &c., if they want to keep their places, must side with them, and they avail themselves of the circumstances also to exact money.

9. The poorer classes are, besides, subject to oppression and vexation on the part of another number of individuals, amongst whom Christians are not scarce, who, by their wealth or position, command influence.

10. The depredations perpetrated by some of the Laz immigrants add to the perplexities of the already unenviable condition of the populations in some districts.

11. Justice is unknown.

This state of things, the accuracy of which the Kaïmakams of the districts cannot deny, does not seem to be known to the Porte.

On my urging upon some of them the necessity of acquainting their Government with the condition of the districts they rule, they explained to me that in so doing they would merely cause their being dismissed without being of any avail to the populations.

They said that if the Porte did not implicitly believe their statement, but sent Delegates to make inquiries, the Beys, Agas, &c., would not fail to present testimonials signed by the whole Mussulman and Christian population, to the effect that they treat them with the utmost kindness, and that all the statements made against them are malicious fabrications.

To convince me of this truth, one of the Kaïmakams proposed to me to obtain in no time a similar statement from the very persons who had submitted their complaints to me. The Governor-General himself had told me the same thing; and I must confess that I believe they would easily succeed in so doing.

Many of the peasants with whom I spoke, after having related to me their cases, said in earnest that in so doing they had staked their lives. Others, Mussulmans especially, spoke more manly, but only lately, a Government official having arrived at Ordoo to collect signatures, for what purpose I could not learn, most of the inhabitants affixed their seal or signature in the firm belief that it was a testimonial in favour of the magnates against whom they had so bitterly complained to me. Only a few kept out of the way to avoid signing. Such is the moral condition to which is reduced the population of this part of Anatolia, owing to the dread of the Lords in which they have lived for generations.

However, one of the Kaïmakams expressed the conviction that, should the principal Beys and Agas be invited to proceed for a time to Trebizond, or elsewhere, and an inquiry be made during their absence, the whole truth would soon be brought to light.

From the Governor-General down to the last Kaïmakam, they all agree in stating that since the adoption of the reformed Legislature it is no longer in their power to do anything on behalf of the population in cases of this description.

They now are of the exclusive resort of the Courts of Justice, whose members look only to their personal interests. As the inhabitants will never venture to bring actions against the Lords, and if they did would obtain no satisfactory result, the only hope of remedy lies in the initiative which can be taken by the Porte itself.

I have been told, and repeated everywhere by Mussulmans and Christians, that it is impossible for them to submit any longer to the present state of things. They are most anxiously looking forward for a change for the better within as little remote a period as possible. Should nothing be done to alleviate the present evils, all the Christians who are not and some of those who are landed proprietors will emigrate to Russia; and as the Mussulman population cannot proceed to that country, many of them seem decided to remove to other parts of Turkey in the hope of a better fate.

One of the foremost measures to be adopted, and without which no reform of any kind can be introduced in this quarter, is to eliminate from the public employments

which they now hold till Beys, Agas, and other oppressors, such as Muftis, &c., and prevent their ever being reinstated in any public function.

I am under this impression, that this end can only be attained by special Delegates being sent from Constantinople to the different districts, with peremptory orders to make the mutation, and, if required, to act upon the suggestion of the fore-mentioned Kaïmakam, that is, to remove for a time from the country the principal Beys and Agas.

Unless this be done, the intention of the Porte to have the cantonal councillors appointed for the first time by the administrative Councils of the districts will enable their present members to choose all men of their own class, and to thus strengthen more than ever their position.

The first appointment of cantonal councillors will decide of future elections. If the inhabitants see that the Government themselves sanction the nomination of the class of men of whom they are in such dread, they will afterwards never venture to follow themselves another course, and all chances of reforms in this province will be lost for ever. They should, on the contrary, have a striking example of the determination of the Porte to countenance the people against the magnates, and this example can only be given by men belonging to the oppressed class being substituted to the present native officials.

This measure by itself will convert into real the present nominal authority of the Government; but this authority can only be affirmed and crime prevented by the contemplated creation of a regular gendarmerie. However, complete order and tranquillity cannot be restored before the whole population, of course Lazes included, are disarmed. But this cannot be thought of before an efficient police force is stationed in the cantons and their subdivisions, and whose presence and protection will leave no pretext for the inhabitants to carry arms for their personal defence.

The anarchy which now prevails, and the disorders which take place owing to the want of police, cannot be better illustrated than by citing the cases which occurred in the western part of the district of Kerassond during the few days that I spent there, and where, just before my arrival, an Armenian, Kaloust Yaylian, was murdered by another Armenian and a Mussulman.

September 16.—Artin Aga Zorian, an Armenian of Boulandjak, was waylaid by natives and Lazes, stabbed, and robbed of 22*l.* and of his watch.

September 17.—Ten Mussulmans returning from the high plateaux ("yaïla"), where they spend the summer months, were despoiled of all their valuables.

September 18.—A Greek, Kiriako of Yoma, was stabbed by a Mussulman, Tcherkezogloo.

September 19.—Several Mussulmans of the village of Boztéké on a futile motive so badly wounded two Lazes that their life is despaired of.

September 20.—Three shops were plundered at Boulandjak of goods worth 100*l.*

September 21.—The thieves, eight in number, carrying off the above goods, passed in the evening in front of the Mudir's house at Aptal, who, on pursuing them with the two zaptiehs he had at his disposal, was received by such a heavy firing that he was compelled to desist chasing them.

September 21.—A Greek, Costaki Kaïsarlioglou, was robbed by two Lazes on his way from Kerassond to Yoma.

September 21.—Threatened attack of families coming from Yaïla to Yoma, where I was. The Laz Chief, Hourchid Aga, whom I knew at Trebizond, at my request, placed at the disposal of the inhabitants fifteen of his men to protect the travellers. Next day the Mudir of the Yaïla, whose force consisted of two zaptiehs, called out some armed Turks to act under his orders as policemen on the Yaïla road.

September 22.—Conflagration of the storehouse, full of nuts; of a Greek of Kerassond, Eskidjioglou Thodori, who a short time previously had been shot at, without effect, in his house in the village. Both attacks were made by Mussulmans, known to have a spite against him.

Except in the cases of the murder of the Armenian, and of the murderous attack on the Lazes, no culprits were arrested.

The creation of Circuit Judges is an innovation which promises good results in a country where distances are great and travelling difficult. However, in so stating, I take it for granted that these new Courts will offer more security for the ends of justice being attained than is the case with those that are now in existence, and which are considered by no party to be a serious institution.

Should it be otherwise, more evil than good will result from the innovation, as it will place the whole agricultural population in the hands of officials whose

proceedings will be witnessed by no person in a position to say a word in favour of the oppressed.

But besides criminal cases, whose trial can be postponed for a time, there are offences of minor importance, such as cattle lifting, &c., which are of daily occurrence, and which, if not settled at once, would greatly detriment the agricultural class, by which these districts are exclusively inhabited.

As, according to the existing organization, the Mudirs, assisted by the Cantonal Councils, have no power to decide on claims involving a value exceeding 150 piastres, some arrangement should be devised in the proposed reforms for the immediate settlement of cases of the above referred kind.

At present there are districts extending 24 hours inland with no Mudirs or a single zaptieh, but a Kaïmakam residing on the sea-shore, with a dozen or so of zaptiehs, half of whom are engaged in other services than those of the police.

No individual whose horse or oxen is stolen now thinks to come from that distance to the seat of the Kaïmakam, more especially as he has the almost certainty of obtaining no redress.

I have witnessed in this district the case of a Greek, Kutchukanoglou Anastas, who was stabbed to death a week since without the authorities having heard of the occurrence, which I reported to them. The murderer, Saninogloo Izzet, being related to a powerful Aga, the Mukhtar of the village, as well as the relatives of the victim, were afraid to denounce him.

The subdivision of some of the present extensive cazas into one or more Kaïmakamliks of third class, under a superintending Kaïmakam of first class, would remedy the former evil, as Cadis with extended powers are always attached to Kaïmakamliks, and the latter inconvenience as well, for obvious reasons.

I even believe that Kerassond might very advantageously be made a mutessariflik, to comprise Ordoo and Tripoli.

But should an arrangement of the kind of that proposed for the districts in general be considered inadvisable, the appointment in the contemplated nahiés, or in groups of them, of local Judges, with sufficient powers to deal with the above alluded cases, becomes indispensable.

More extended powers to the Valis, and frequent inspections by them of the districts under their jurisdiction, would maintain more regularity in the service and prevent abuses on the part of subordinate officials.

In order to enable them to absent themselves without inconvenience from the capital of the province, Mouavins (Under-Governors) should be appointed to assist them.

However advantageous it may be that the Courts of Justice should not be subject in their findings to the control of the executive power, still I cannot help thinking that a general supervision by the Valis for the repression of flagrant abuses on the part of the members of these Courts will greatly tend to prevent the corrupt practices which now take place. The independence of Judges secures justice in Europe; quite the reverse occurs in Turkey. It would be less difficult to find an honest Vali than two scores of incorruptible officials of the class of those who at present act as Judges.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 172.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 37. Political.)

Geurele, October 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I TRAVELLED over the district of Tripoli from south to north. It consists of a succession of higher peaks than those at Kerassond, which are covered with dense forests.

These mountains gradually decrease in height on nearing the sea-shore, where they dwindle into the size of hills, to which, quite close to the sea-coast, succeeds a low, marshy plain, almost exclusively used as rice fields.

The soil, which contains rich copper mines, is in most places unfit for agricultural purposes. Villages are situated at great distances from each other, and dwellings are erected over the extent of land wherever there is a plot of ground adopted for agriculture.

However, a few villages are situated in exceptional fertile spots, while the moisture of the soil is so great in others, that their crops are seldom plentiful. The available land is inadequate for the wants of the inhabitants, many of whom are compelled to rent lands at Kara-Hissar.

There are in the district of Tripoli 94 Mussulman and 20 Greek villages, respectively inhabited by about 33,000 and 7,000 souls. Only 450 Armenians are to be found in the town.

The first Greek settlers came about 150 years ago from Gumushané, for the special purpose of turning into account the mineral ores of Tripoli.

Later on the Porte employed these miners on its account with more or less regularity until the year 1862, when the existing nine mines were farmed out. The speculation proved a failure, owing to the want of sufficient capital to properly carry it out, and was given up twelve years after. They were then sold by the Government to an Egyptian, who worked only one of the mines, abandoning the others.

The condition of the miners then became very precarious, and many emigrated to Russia or to other parts of Turkey in order to gain a livelihood, which was denied to them in their native villages. In 1866 a native Greek proceeded to Constantinople and submitted the condition of his co-religionists, when the Porte suggested the starting of a Company, which was consequently formed at Trebizond, but four years were lost in negotiations in the capital, important sums were expended, and the indispensable Firman was never delivered.

Emigration, which had decreased in the expectation of a favourable settlement of the question, then resumed larger proportions. It is now prevented by order of the Porte; but what can people do who have no lands to cultivate, and cannot addict themselves to the only possible industry in the district? Now and then a number of Greek families leave their native village in quest of lands in other parts of the district. Those that they can manage to obtain, never under a rent of 20 per cent. on the produce, are in no case adequate for their wants, and hardly yield 10 to 1.

I saw some of these Greeks, who have settled since a few years at Kilissebournoo, not far from the town; they still look more miserable than their co-religionists in the mining villages.

The residence of many of those who departed is even unknown, and their families are in utter destitution. Those who remain can hardly earn a piece of bread; and not only have they to pay their own taxation, but that of the emigrants for military service is also claimed from the community, and amounts for each village from 7,000 piastres to 10,000 piastres.

It must be observed that those of the emigrants who removed to Russia, having become Russian subjects, are no longer liable to the military tax, while those who settled in other parts of Turkey pay it in their present permanent residence.

There are cases of this description concerning individuals who removed from one to another part of the district: 290 piastres were exacted this year as arrears of taxation from Kazandji Panajoti, of Samukli, residing since three years in the town of Tripoli, though he had regularly paid this sum to the Mukhtar of his native village. He presented a certificate to this effect, but was unable to recover the money illegally extorted from him.

The only way to ameliorate the really miserable condition of Christians, and of that portion of the Mussulman population who have addicted themselves to the industry of miners, and are in as great need, is to grant all possible facilities to such parties who may be inclined to run the risk of resuming the working of mines in this district. There is also another cause that tends to impoverish the population of Tripoli.

Plantations of hazel-nut trees are only advantageous in such districts where there are more than sufficient, and not inadequate lands, as is the case here, for the wants of the inhabitants.

The value of a crop of Indian corn is far superior to that of hazel-nuts; still the populations here plant their fields with trees, thus reducing their already limited means of existence. They are actuated to do so by the motive that, when they are in want of money, a case of constant occurrence, they cannot obtain it on their expected crop of maize, which the chances are they will consume for food. As money is advanced on a produce which they are compelled to sell, the plantation of hazel-nut trees is annually increasing, and with it the precarious condition of the inhabitants.

There are in the district of Tripoli no extensive landed proprietors. The Kiahiaogloos are the only descendants of Derebeys to be found in the villages, where, owing to their number (they muster eighty armed men), they perpetrate all kinds of depredations and nefarious acts.

One of them is now in the prisons of Erzeroum for murder. Another, condemned for the same offence, escaped from gaol, and it is in this district where he has resumed his acts of brigandage.

Not later than in August last, he severely wounded two revenue guards who attempted to seize contraband tobacco belonging to him. The guards, unable to obtain redress here, have applied to Constantinople, but hitherto without result.

Three weeks ago the niece of a Patchalogloo Salih, against whom the Kiahiaogloos had an old grudge, was seized near the river by the son of Emindjik Aga Kiahiaogloo, one of his cousins, and the Mufti's son, and was being ravished, when one of her cousins happened to arrive, and being herself chased called for help. Shepherds and others came to the rescue, and witnessed the rape, but were unable to prevent it, having been shot at by the ravishers. The victim having applied next day to the Court of Justice, she was summarily dismissed, though she bore unmistakable marks of the outrage she had been subjected to. The witnesses having been threatened with death, declined to appear in Court.

Rape is of frequent occurrence here. Thirteen Mussulman families are said to have decided to remove elsewhere in consequence of similar outrages, the perpetrators of which, mostly related to the Kiahiaogloos, have been left unpunished.

A week before my arrival in the district of Tripoli, Sanindjioglou Izzet, also a relative of the Kiahiaogloos, having repaired, with a Mussulman woman whom he had carried off, to the house of Kutchukoglou Anastas, of Yenikeny, and being not provided with provisions according to his liking, so severely wounded Anastas that his life was despaired of; his wife also received a slight cut. Owing to the dread that the Kiahiaogloos inspire, neither the wounded man's relatives nor the Moukhtar had brought the occurrence to the knowledge of the authorities at Tripoli, to whom I myself reported the case.

The Kaimakam ordered at once the apprehension of the culprit, but Kiahiaogloo Emindjik Aga, who, under the preceding Governor, assumed a kind of official position as Mudir of the Yaïla, a title which the present Kaimakam does not acknowledge, answered a week ago that he would bring himself his relative to town, which probably he will never do.

The Kiahiaogloos by themselves have only power for evil, but they are protected by influential parties in the town, amongst whom the Mufti, whose daughter married Emindjik Aga's son.

Every one, with the exception of his relatives and partisans, complain of the Mufti. He is said to deliver fetwas in favour of the party paying most, and to exempt from military service the sons of rich individuals who can afford to give him money. However, few distinct cases have been stated to me.

From what I have been able to gather, it would appear that the influence of the Mufti, who is very learned, is unbounded, and that nothing takes place without his consent. As the condition in the town and villages is far from being satisfactory, all evils are laid at his door.

There are here two principal parties, the Mufti's and that of a family of a certain Emin Captan, which are subdivided into smaller ones, all striving for power. Their intestine quarrels take up all the time of those who happen to hold public employments, and who only use their influence in favour of their adherents.

The notabilities of the town have constituted themselves the protectors of one or more villages, whose affairs are entirely in their hands. They provide them with money or merchandise in exchange for their coming agricultural produces. In questions between them, peasants refer their cases to their patrons before applying to the Government. As those who belong to the men in power share more advantages, the party strifes of the town extend to the villages.

In most of the other cazas that I have visited, magnates, on the contrary, are united; but in both cases the result is the same, oppression and extortions on the part of the leading men against the poorer classes.

It must, however, be supposed by no means that the population is exempt from depredations and exactions on the part of other ruffians. On the contrary, they avail themselves of the prevailing anarchy to act as they like, being sure of impunity, even in cases of murderous assaults, so long as they have the means to pay for the protection of the men in power.

The corrupt practices of the Courts of Justice are no secret; the very members say so, but, naturally, each in his turn throws the accusation on his colleagues.

Altogether the condition of the agricultural class at Tripoli is most miserable,

owing to the physical conditions of the soil, and to the little care taken by the Government to turn into account its mineral riches.

Things are made worse by official extortions, amongst which must be reckoned those on the tithe, and on the assessment of the emlak (property-tax), in both of which here, as everywhere else, the poor are sacrificed to the rich.

It would appear that the peasants having refused this year to give the high bribe which the collector of the sheep-tax solicited, he inscribed a number of sheep not inferior to that of the preceding year, though at least one-third of the animals perished during the last severe winter.

There is as little security for property here as there is at Kerassond. Several cases have been reported to me, the details of which would only be a repetition of former examples.

Tithes not paid in kind are collected by Government officials and Moukhtars, at a higher valuation than the price at which the Government sell the same produce arising out of the tithe.

Embezzlements by Moukhtars of the taxes collected by them on the Government account were so frequent that, since five years, peasants resort to the measure of paying them through merchants in the town: 3,500 piastres are now claimed from the inhabitants of the Mussulman village of Sinanli, who had paid them to their Moukhtar.

Zaptiehs also exact money under different pretexts. The trouble of going from the Moukhtar's house to that of the peasant who, when called, does not repair at once, is taxed from 5 to 20 piastres. When conscripts happen to be away from the village where zaptiehs call for them, their parents have to pay from 20 to 50 piastres to prevent their sons being reported as deserters. Those who are liable to military service are hurried off as they come in from out-of-door work, as a pretext for zaptiehs to grant them a few days' respite against payment.

The rate of interest is here as usurious as at Kerassond, and that at which goods are sold to peasants treble their real value. All I can say in attenuation is, that shopkeepers have a very slight chance of ever getting back the whole of their money from the impoverished agriculturers of the district of Tripoli.

No temettuat tax is levied here.

In the collection of taxation and tithe peasants are subjected to most brutal treatment, even to torture, by zaptiehs. By a recent disposition of the Porte, civilians have been appointed as collectors, but owing to their limited number, or to their inability to cash the sums due to the Government, zaptiehs are as well employed.

The orders for remittances are so pressing from the capital, and consequently from the Governor-General of Trebizond, that zaptiehs consider all means good provided that money is collected. The authorities in this district, to please their superiors, shut their eyes to the violent treatments in question, but cannot deny them.

The first case that came to my knowledge took place on the 5th of Bairam—an old Mussulman, Duben-Aliogloo Mollah Halil, of Israil Maden, who had paid his taxes in 63 piastres, but from whom the money was again claimed. He was bound to a tree by zaptiehs, Ibilogloo Hassan and Topdji Osmanogloo Hassan, and six buckets of cold water poured over his head. He explained to his tormentors that the 63 piastres for which he was sued had been paid by Karahissarzadé Ali Effendi, who held the receipt in the town, and offered to be conveyed there to show it. But he was grossly abused, beaten, and threatened with death with a cutlass which was flourished over his head. A messenger was then dispatched offering his liberation by paying 20 piastres to the zaptiehs. Having refused to comply with this requst, he was subjected to another kind of torture. One of his feet was made fast to a rope which was pulled tight over his neck, and his other foot fastened to it. He was left some time in this position. When I saw him he still had a bad sore at one of his ankles, caused, he said, by the torture he had endured.

He applied to the Kaïmakam, who referred him to the Cadi; the Clerk of the Court of Justice asked him to pay the fees, but having no money, he lastly applied to the head of the police, who treated the matter lightly.

Ali Kousseogloo Hassan and Tchaouch Motlu Ogloo Hussein of the same village were treated in a like manner. The wife of the former was thrashed at the same time.

On that occasion most of the inhabitants of Israil Maden had been imprisoned in the mosque of the village, and had to pay 5 piastres each to recover their liberty.

Three months back Bekirogloo, of Sareyar, and only a fortnight ago Kodja Mahmoodogloo Ali, of Tchaokoor, were similarly tortured by zaptieh, Asnavourogloo Moustafa.

These violent treatments are not an innovation; they seem to have been especially in practice since two years by zaptiehs in general.

Last year's cases that came to my knowledge are those of Yussufogloo, of Dikmen, and Keleshogloo Ibrahim, of Kétchikeuy, by zaptieh, Kermeliogloo Molla Hussein, Zournadji Hassan, and Ahmed and their cousin, all of Tchaokoor, by zaptiehs, Kadir and Mahmoud-Moussaogloo Doursoun, by Abdi Tchaouche.

I have also heard that hanging for a certain time by the feet is not unknown.

The petitions addressed on the subject to the authorities have never been taken into consideration.

Mukhtars resort also to brutal treatment.

No Christians have been subjected to torture of any kind.

There are twenty-one zaptiehs in this district. Only seventy-two Laz emigrants have settled at Tripoli. Their location has given rise to a few cases of unjust appropriation of land for their benefit. One especially concerns a poor maimed Mussulman, Domadjogloo Hussein, of Domandji, who was deprived of the only land he possessed, and for which he received no compensation whatever.

There is a significant case connected with emigration which I cannot allow to pass unnoticed.

The telegraph station-master at Tripoli being a native of Batoum, and the then Kaïmakam being one of his countrymen, the former availed himself of the opportunity to ask and obtain a piece of land in the town itself. There is hardly space enough to move in the streets of Tripoli, which is built on the side of one abrupt hill. The land granted to the station-master is one of the rare small spaces found in front of the public fountains in the town. It does not measure more than 50 square yards, and is not adapted for the erection of a house, but its possession being indispensable to the inhabitants, money could be exacted from them.

They have uselessly applied for the restitution of this piece of land; the authorities do nothing; and the station-master values it at 50*l.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 173.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 135.) *Tehran, November* 1, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAMS from Tabreez to the Persian Government report withdrawal of Kurds from Oroomiah. It is stated that dissension has arisen among the Chiefs, who are now disposed to come to terms.

(Sent to Viceroy and Constantinople.)

No. 174.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 499.) *Therapia, October* 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kaisarieh, reporting upon the state of affairs at the village of Rhumdign, and the arbitrary proceedings of two Boys residing there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 8. Political.) *Kaisarieh, October* 10, 1880.

Sir,

RHUMDIGN is a village in the Boghaslian Caza of the Jusgat Sandjak, Vilayet of Angora, about nine hours north of Kaisarieh and four hours east-south-east of Boghaslian. The population consists roughly of 230 Armenian and 120 Moslem

houses, the occupation of the people being chiefly agricultural. As a rule, the feeling between Moslem and Armenians is good, and the village is not split up into quarters. Unfortunately for the peace and welfare of Rhumdign, there are also living in the village two Beys (Omer and Hussein), men belonging to that pernicious class of individuals who seem to have inherited a right to oppress and tyrannize over the poor. Of independent means, they lose no opportunity of increasing their riches, and in bad times make loans to peasants at high rates, I am informed.

A man, Nersis, a Protestant Armenian, among others, thus fell into their power. Borrowing at a time when the medjidié was worth something like 46 piastres, a dispute arose about the middle of July last as to the amount of the debt still due, the Beys claiming the amount in piastres, and Nersis, while offering to pay any sum awarded by law, declining to submit to their extortionate demands, and claiming to have already paid the debt. The Beys got the man into their house, where they threatened him, illused him, and kept him for some hours against his will. A short time afterwards zaptiehs arrived from Boghaslian, and Nersis was taken off thither and put in prison, at first in chains, on a charge of using seditious language. He was kept in prison for fourteen days, no public inquiry being held; he was then allowed out, but not allowed to leave Boghaslian. This lasted for thirty-five days longer, when he was taken before the Judge at night and advised to admit having used seditious language; this he refused to do, and he was shortly afterwards allowed to go to his home on bail, where he now lies in a precarious state, his illness being probably due to mental torture.

The case created some interest, and was brought to my notice by the Protestant pastor here early in August, when the man had been a short time in prison. Having satisfied myself that the case required investigation, I wrote to the Vali of Angora requesting his Excellency's attention to it. Towards the end of August his Excellency arrived in Kaisarieh, and I took the opportunity of speaking to him on the subject. At first he appeared to have forgotten it, and finally said that it was a very serious charge, and that he could not interfere; but from the date of the man's release, and from the fact that the Mutessarif of Jusgat has recently visited the neighbourhood and conducted an inquiry into the case, I apprehend that my representations were not made in vain.

Last week I visited Rhumdign to ascertain how matters stood. My arrival created some excitement, large numbers of the inhabitants coming out to meet me. I saw the man Nersis, and he assured me most solemnly, lying there very ill, of the facts as stated, and he is now expecting at any time to be sent for to hear his sentence. I learnt also that there would be no difficulty in proving the case against him by false witnesses, and I have no doubt that it is all a diabolical invention of the Beys to frighten others besides Nersis into paying more than is just. The people declare that it is useless appealing for justice to Boghaslian, and I hear on very good authority that the Kaimakam and Cadi are both entirely in the hands of the Beys. During my visit the Multezims (tithe buyers) were in the village, and the people were loud in their complaints that they were taking much more than their dues; the wheat was still exposed, and they had to submit or let it rot. I did not understand at the time, but I saw the two Beys driving off to an outlying vineyard with others whom I took to be Multezims; and I have since learnt that they had bought the tithes themselves, and were no doubt using their local powers of extortion with good effect.

I think it is quite possible, now that I have visited the place, that the Beys will be alarmed and will press the charge, and that Nersis will be convicted at the hands of false witnesses; he has been the victim already of a gross act of injustice; he should now be tried either at Jusgat or Angora, openly and fairly, or receive a substantial indemnity for the wrong he has endured. The conduct and dealings of these two Beys should also be inquired into generally. I feel sure, from the little I have been able to learn at this distance, that the administration of justice at Boghaslian is entirely dependent on their influence.

Perhaps your Excellency will see fit to direct Mr. Gatheral to keep an eye on affairs in that neighbourhood during the winter; on my return from Adana in the spring I hope to be able to spend a few days in the caza, and shall be in a better position to judge and report on its condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 175.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, November 2, 1880.

SHAH is very desirous that your Lordship should again press Porte to have the frontier closely watched, so as to prevent Kurds passing backwards or forwards. His Majesty also urges necessity of Porte sending a summons to Sheikh Obeidullah to return to Turkish territory, and resume his allegiance to Sultan, or else strong measures will be resorted to against him.

The Sheikh still sends inflammatory proclamations to Persian Kurds, and has lately written through secret agent to Abbas Mirza, the Shah's brother, inviting him to join movement.

(Sent to Viceroy of India.)

No. 176.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 652.)

Foreign Office, November 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 456 of the 12th instant, inclosing Major Trotter's able Report on Turkish misrule in Asia Minor, together with one from Captain Stewart on the Courts of Justice in the Vilayet of Konieh, and I appreciate the reasons given by your Excellency, in whose judgment I have full confidence, for refraining, for the present, at least, from calling upon the Porte to dismiss Tahir Bey, President of the Criminal Court at Konieh, and of other officials denounced by Captain Stewart.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 177.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 653.)

Foreign Office, November 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 464 of the 12th instant, containing interesting information on the subject of the Kurdish insurrection and the position of the Sheikh Obeydullah.

In the event of a Commission being appointed by Turkey or Persia to visit the Kurdish frontier preliminary to the Convention which has been for some time pending between the two Powers, I approve your Excellency's proposal, that it should be accompanied by one of Her Majesty's Consuls who has made himself acquainted with the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 178.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 654.)

Foreign Office, November 3, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE read with interest the Report by Mr. St. John on the condition of the Turkish refugees at Ismidt, inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 460 of the 12th ultimo, and I entirely approve his proceedings, as well as the note which your Excellency has addressed to the Porte in the interest of these unfortunate people.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 179.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 36. Political.)

Valf-Kebir, October 15, 1880.

My Lord,

GEURÉLÉ was erected into a district seven years ago. It formerly formed part of that of Tripoli, to which it is alike in physical features and mineral resources.

The fifty-two villages it contains are inhabited by 16,000 Mussulmans and 800 Greeks, and 20 Laz immigrants.

Properly speaking, there is no town in the district.

Elehoo, the residence of the Kaïmakam, at most is a borough, containing a mixed population of about 650 souls, 150 of whom are Armenians.

The few storehouses which are built near the sea-shore have been erected within the last two years, after a fire which burnt to the ground the less important former bazaar. All commercial affairs are transacted on Fridays, when between 4,000 and 5,000 people congregate here from the villages and the neighbouring districts.

In order to promote the erection of new buildings, the inhabitants of Elehoo have adopted the following measure: non-resident retailers of woollen and cotton manufactures are not allowed, like other retailers, to sell their goods in the open air. Another measure, which is quite of a protective character, is that the advances made by the inhabitants of Elehoo to peasants are privileged.

The rural populations in general are better off than at Tripoli, except in the mining districts, where they are in so worse a condition that there have been, even lately, cases of starvation. They suffered in 1876 from a famine, which was relieved by Trebizond.

There are no descendants of Derebeys in the villages worth mentioning, and in the borough no notabilities fighting for supremacy. There is no Mufti—a great advantage, judging from the complaints which have been made everywhere against these functionaries and their relatives. The inhabitants may indistinctly apply for Fetwas to the Mufti of Tripoli or to that of Trebizond.

The contrast under the fore-mentioned heads is striking after the few hours' ride which divide the town of Tripoli from Elehoo.

There is, however, an important point of contact—that is, the venality of the Courts of Justice. However, the cases that came to my knowledge concern small sums, but that may depend on the unimportance of the place rather than on the wisdom of the Judges. I was assured that they, as well as all the other Government officials, openly say that, their salaries being inadequate, and their superiors accepting bribes, there is no motive why they should not do the same; and they seem to act on this principle.

Seven years since special officials came to register the landed property and to deliver title-deeds to the owners. As peasants generally did not exactly understand the purpose of the registration, which they merely thought aimed at fixing a new land tax, they furnished incomplete information. Those who were in a position to be better informed, agreeing with the Registrar, left the former in their error, and availed themselves of the circumstance to extend their own landed property by encroachments on that of their neighbours. There have been ever since numerous claims, which seem to have seldom been settled in favour of the original owners.

It was enacted at the time that, on the death of landowners, new title-deeds should be issued to their heirs and a fee of 5 per cent. levied, and that a double fee—that is, 10 per cent.—should be exacted from those who failed to comply with the regulation. This order, which hitherto had been allowed to remain a dead letter, is now put in force in this district, but only 5 per cent. levied as fee.

The inhabitants of this district seem to have a marked propensity for murderous assaults, in which they are encouraged by the leniency with which the Courts of Justice deal with the perpetrators thereof.

There is sometimes no appreciable motive in the murders that take place. Last year, Mussulmans of Tchuruk Eynessil were proceeding in the day-time to Sereyan-chalos, to convey back a girl who was to marry one of their fellow-villagers, when they were met by about thirty young men from the last village, who claimed the customary present of a sheep; it was given, together with 200 piastres, which were asked in addition; but this did not prevent the young men in question to open fire on the other party, three of whom were wounded and one killed on the spot. Several of

the aggressors were apprehended and remained a short time in prison, but not one of them was condemned.

Murders for motive of robbery are rare, but not unknown.

Three months since, Yussufogloo Salih and Kalafatogloo Mehmed murdered a Gamberogloo Ibrahim, with whom they were travelling, and who had 11*l.* in his possession. They are in prison, but not tried, though the effects of the victim were found in their hands.

Revenge and women are the principal causes of assassination.

Nine months since, Habadjogloo Hassan and Haytogloo Ahmed murdered Imam-ogloo Hussein, of whom they had to complain while he was Moukhtar. They were released after an imprisonment of a month and a-half.

A quarrel about a cow between two Mussulmans, who had an old enmity between them, ended by one of the parties being stabbed to death a fortnight ago.

In the night of the 10th instant, Laz Ali and Moustafa, son of Eumer Aga, both of Tonia, carried off and ravished the daughter of Mollah Omer Ogloo, of Geurélé, who is serving in the army. His son, 10 years old, who clung to his sister to prevent her being dragged away, was dangerously wounded. Laz Ali was arrested, but released next day. The following evening the same Laz Ali wounded the wife of Osman's brother, who had been to inquire as to the state of things from her relative, but this time he could not be discovered.

No less than ten murders or murderous assaults have taken place within the present year.

I have heard in this district of no brutal treatment on the part of zaptiehs, who number ten in all.

As Christians are liable to the military tax both in their native village and in the place of their permanent residence, so the numerous Mussulmans of the neighbouring district of Geurtun who live here are twice subject to draw at conscription. If they are favoured by chance in one place they are unlucky in the other, and very few are the natives of Geurtun living at Geurélé who escape from military service in their youth.

The district of Geurtun is situated too far inland for me to visit it on the present occasion. However, a few cases came to my knowledge which prove that its inhabitants are very fierce and that complete anarchy prevails there, from which especially Christians suffer.

A Keskinogloo Suleiman carried off three years since the wife of Tchoukogloo Lefteri, and some time after brought her to Trebizond under the pretext that she wished to embrace Islamism. She was given back to her husband, and Suleiman imprisoned, but a month and a-half later he recovered his liberty. Six months after, having again carried her off, he fought against and was killed by the zaptiehs sent to apprehend him. To escape the revenge of Suleiman's relatives, Lefteri was compelled to remove to Geurélé, leaving his landed property to his brothers, but it was taken possession of by the Keskinogloos, who still detain it. A few months back the Keskinogloos, who own lands at Geurélé, having met him there, attempted to murder him, and would have succeeded to do so without the interference of a few native Mussulmans.

Depredations being committed by the Mussulman inhabitants of Sengudenli on the property of their Christian fellow-villagers during their absence at the Yaïla, the latter decided to leave this year two guards to protect their cattle.

On the 2nd September last they had to fight against three Mussulmans, one of whom was killed, while carrying off cattle. The two guards were bound with cords, beaten, and so shockingly tortured by the Mussulmans of Sengudenli that one of them, Fotogloo, died in the prison of Ardassa, while he was being conveyed with his companion, Delikharahamboglou, to Gumushané for trial. The Mussulmans are said to have exacted 200*l.* from the Greek community, which, in order to obtain the Mudir's protection, paid him 40*l.*, but this did not prevent their being further molested. Christians state that their total loss in this case amounts to 1,000*l.*

The Nahié of Geurtun is inhabited by nearly 10,000 Mussulmans and 2,000 Greeks, and is a dependence of the Mutessariflik of Gumushané.

I have seen more than one Mussulman and Greek of Geurélé and Geurtun maimed for life in consequence of wounds inflicted on them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 180.

Consul Billiotti to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 39.)
Trebizond, October 19, 1880.

My Lord,

ON leaving Geurélé, I successively visited the Nahié of Charly, the Caza of Vakf-Kebir, and the Nahié of Aktché-Abad.

Charly seems to be the resort of malefactors of all kinds, and public rumour mentions a certain Oozoonogloo Kéléch Aga, of the village of Yobal, as their protector.

In May last Latifogloo Aziz and Kementchedjiogloo Tombool Mehmed Reïz, of the same village, effected a landing in the district of Kerassond, and carried off from the Kara-Hissar road goods worth 250*l*. One of the thieves was arrested at Ooniah, where he and his accomplices had disposed of the stolen merchandise, but he was allowed to escape as he was about to be embarked on board the steamer for conveyance to Kerassond. In spite of the instances of the owner of the goods, no further steps were taken by the authorities. They do not feel sufficient confidence in their own power to apprehend the fore-mentioned individuals, who are known to be the thieves.

As I was skirting the sea-shore between Tripoli and Geurélé I met two boats at anchor, each manned by eight armed men. The latter were resting on the land, and with them two women in men's attire. On my arrival a few days after at Charly, I was told by the Mudir himself that, three days previously, the owners of the boats in question had spent the night at Kéléch Aga's house, together with the two women, whom they had carried off from Ooniah. The one, he said, has two children; the other he could not ascertain, she being ill at the time. Kéléch Aga's house is a quarter of an hour distant from the Mudir's residence; but the ravishers were allowed to depart unmolested.

There is at Charly an exclusive Mussulman population of about 14,000 Mussulmans.

Two years since, being dissatisfied with their Mudir, they embarked him on board a boat and sent him back to Trebizond.

The police force consists of eight zaptiehs.

Vakf-Kebir is a caza to which Charly and the Nahié of Tonia were annexed for a time. They now are independent, the first since four, and the second since three years.

Tonia is situated south of Vakf-Kebir, and is inhabited by about 8,000 Mussulmans.

Charly also formed part, at another time, of the district of Geurélé, but the inhabitants, in order to have more freedom for committing depredations, found the means, as did those of Tonia, who are represented to be of a still worse character, to be placed under the immediate jurisdiction of Trebizond. The town being at 15 hours' distance from the two cazas in question, the supervision that can be exercised on them is nominal, while that of the Mudir counts for nothing.

Vakf-Kebir, though possessing a population of about 18,000 souls, only 50 of whom are Armenians, and being the residence of a Kaïmakam, is not endowed with Courts of Justice a great drawback for the inhabitants.

There are twelve zaptiehs in this district.

Aktché-Abad is the nahié immediately west of the town of Trebizond. It is inhabited by nearly 30,000 Mussulmans, 5,200 Greeks, 2,800 Armenians, and 150 Laz emigrants.

The police force consists of fifteen zaptiehs.

All these nahiés, as well as the Caza of Vakf-Kebir, are, like Geurélé, the scenes of numerous murderous assaults, often ending in death, and of rapes, the perpetrators of which are never punished.

In most cases the aggrieved parties do not apply for redress, but when they do so they cannot obtain justice.

There are in all these cantons the same complaints as elsewhere with regard to insecurity for property, and tithe and other extortions on the part of Government officials, but no general complaints of ill-treatment on that of zaptiehs.

A few days before my return to Trebizond a Mulazim (Lieutenant) who had brutally treated Mussulmans of Aktché-Abad, was cashiered by the Colonel of Police, Hassan Bey.

I mentioned to him the conduct of the zaptiehs at Tripoli, and he seems decided to deal rigorously with them.

I met here Yussuf Pasha, ex-Governor-General of Trebizond, who, since a year and a-half, was Reform Commissioner in Armenia with Serkis Effendi.

Their presence here has given me the idea to suggest that they should be delegated to make an inquiry into the condition of this province.

Yussuf Pasha unites in his person all the qualities required for the efficient fulfilment of the special duty. He is an incorruptible, upright functionary; he is known as such to the populations of the province; he has a rank which, while overawing the oppressors, will inspire confidence to the oppressed, and he is fresh from his recent experience in Armenia in dealing with similar questions.

I have not the pleasure of a long acquaintance with Serkis Effendi, but from the little that I have seen of him, I believe that he is as well qualified as Yussuf Pasha.

The latter wondered at the many abuses which I summarily related to him, and of which he had heard nothing while he was Vali in this province. I had no more heard myself of them before I went on the spot. The populations fear to speak, and the Kaïmakams and Mudirs consider useless to report thereon. However, the facts are undeniable, but the Porte is in complete darkness on the subject, and in the meantime abuses continue to the detriment of the population.

Yussuf Pasha being one of the best financial authorities in Turkey, his inspection may also be of material advantage to the Porte with regard to revenues.

The populations are ruined, and the Government derive little profit. The poorer classes especially, in property tax, tithe, and other contributions, extortions, bribes, &c., disburse three or four times more than they should equitably pay, while men of influence despoil the Government of the best part of their revenues.

With respect to tithe, I can say that the populations in general would be but too glad to pay a fixed sum on the average of a number of years, in lieu of the arbitrary valuation of the tithe-collector. The Government would profit by all the salaries which they now pay, and the peasants would save the large sums they expend as bribes.

Tithe is partly collected in kind and partly in money.

In the first case the produce is so measured that there is always an important increase. Not only does it go to the exclusive benefit of the tax-collectors, but sometimes, and such is the case at present at Tripoli, a monentous deficit is discovered in the tithe stores.

The agricultural produce collected as tithe is sold at ridiculous low prices owing to speculation on the part of storekeeper.

When money is collected instead of produce, the Government fix a price, but the Moukhtars and collectors exact another to their convenience. Last year the Government price was 19 piastres, that of the Moukhtars and others 30 piastres.

These are only a few instances of the many corrupt practices from which suffer the Government as well as the peasants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILLIOTTI.

No. 181.

Consul Billiotti to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 40.)
Trebizond, October 25, 1880.

My Lord,

AFTER my recent visit in the western districts of this vilayet, I am in a position to furnish your Lordship with accurate information with regard to the feelings of the populations in that quarter. I have reason to believe that my present statement may be taken as also applying to the remaining districts that I have not visited, and may be to other provinces of Anatolia.

I may say, in a word, that dissatisfaction prevails to the highest degree.

The only wonder is that the populations should have so long submitted, without making their voices heard, to the state of things that I have described in the Reports which I have had the honour to address to your Lordship from time to time during my recent journey.

It is strange that the same Mussulmans who so manly, proudly, and fearlessly face the enemy of their country and death, should endure with abasement and pusillanimity the treatment to which they are subjected when they resume private life.

This contrast can only be ascribed to their innate reverence for the authority of the Sultan, and to the unbounden faith which, until lately, they placed in his person, though they had long ago lost all confidence in the class ruling in his name.

However, things have gone so far, that henceforth only serious complications can be expected unless the Government, alive to the reality, take energetic and prompt measures to completely reorganize the chaotic condition of affairs.

Christians do not suffer so much as, but submit with less resignation than, Mussulmans to the deplorable state of things brought about by the abuses and anarchy which prevail under a Government for which they have no sympathy of race or of religion. They find a sort of relief in the disorganization from which they suffer, detecting in it an unmistakeable sign of the collapse of the Power whose rule they have so long endured. Every additional complication is for them a further step towards attaining their hopes for better days.

It is quite the reverse with Mussulmans. Hitherto the intensity of their sufferings was attenuated by patriotism or religious feeling, and by the hope of a revival. But successive events having only brought about a change from bad to worse, their expectations gradually vanished, and at present the sad reality of their position is intensified by the sum of their blasted hopes.

Having lost all faith, not only in the Government, but in the Sultan himself, they are in utter discouragement and despair.

Religious feeling is the only one that survives in them. Hitherto it was blended with patriotism and devotion to the Sovereign, who derived therefrom all his power, and so well was this principle recognized by the ruling class at Constantinople, that on several occasions since the last war they have used strenuous efforts to keep up their prestige by awakening the religious fanaticism of the Mussulman populations. But their attempts in this direction have proved a failure, at all events in this part of Anatolia.

It is now characteristic to observe that by a slow process of reasoning, brought about by the conduct of the Government towards them, and the choice by the Sultan of Ministers, that they consider unfit to conduct public affairs, Mussulmans have arrived at the conclusion that the Sovereign and his advisers are no longer true believers.

The only real link which unite the populations to the Sultan having thus been severed, they consider him no better than a stranger. They apply to him the epithet of "Ghiaour." I have not myself heard him called by this appellation, but I have repeatedly been told by Mussulmans that the evils from which they suffer attained their culminating point under the reign of the present Sultan, and that this result is to be ascribed to slackness in religious principles and practices on the part of the ruling class.

I could not, however, detect in this statement the slightest idea of fanaticism; the best proof is that, with few exceptions, which are not of recent date, Mussulmans live on good terms with their Christian neighbours. What they said was the expression of the genuine conviction that true Mussulmans could not act as do those who hold the reins of the State.

Some Mussulmans told me that they actually consider to have no Sovereign, and that their continuing to obey orders is owing to their reluctance to repudiate obligations contracted in the name of the nation by the person who sits on the Ottoman Throne.

This, however, is not a generally prevailing feeling; but I believe that I am not mistaken in stating that there is not a single Mussulman who does not consider that there is no hope of salvation so long as the destinies of the Empire are in the hands of the reigning Sultan, or his dynasty, and those of the Pashas who have hitherto been at the head of public affairs.

The populations look round and see no possible help from within their own country. They therefore turn their eyes towards Europe, and especially towards England, and not only expect a foreign intervention as an inevitable event, but also as the only one that can save them from utter ruin. They are anxious that it should take place without much delay to save them as soon as possible from their present sufferings.

A few Mussulmans even stated that if their hopes in this respect were frustrated, they would take upon themselves to bring about a change in their present condition, which they can no longer endure.

Having been very often asked by Mussulmans why had not England yet taken in hand the promised reforms in Anatolia, I now and then availed myself of the opportunity to state that though they expressed the desire under the momentaneous smartness of suffering, they would perhaps be the first to resent foreign pressure or intervention. The invariable reply was that, provided that no attempt was made to interfere with their religion, they would be thankful to foreigners for conferring on them a boon which they never hope to obtain from their own countrymen who are in power.

The eagerness with which Mussulmans rushed to meet me is the surest sign of their sincerity in this respect. They did so not only in the villages, but also openly in the towns where resided Kaimakams. They were very guarded in places where Beys and Aghas oppressing them were living, they were afraid of them, but they did not seem to much care for Government officials.

The confidence which they showed me is the most evident proof of the little reliance they place in their own authorities. In some cases they were rebuked by the latter for stating their grievances to a foreigner. They always replied that no other option was left to them. The old Mussulman who had been tortured at Tripoli on being similarly rebuked said that, being unable to obtain redress from any one of his own authorities, he would apply not only to a British Consul, but even to the Emperor of Russia himself, if he thought that justice would be rendered to him.

England enjoys great popularity among Mussulmans in Anatolia. Russian influence only extends over Christians, but strange enough, it diminishes as decreases the distance that separates their places of residence from the Russian frontier.

Lately, however, a marked change has taken place in favour of England among Christians.

In some places Greeks shows signs of sympathy for the Hellenic Kingdom, and I heard expressed the regret that it should be so far situated as to be impossible for them to proceed there instead of emigrating to the Caucasus.

Russia is the last nation with which Mussulmans in Anatolia would sympathize; but, placed as they now are, I am under the impression that they would even accept her rule rather than continue to live in their present condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 182.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 519.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 30, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 477 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Mr. Barnham, relating to the population of the Vilayet of Kharpoot, together with a memorandum by Major Trotter on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 182.

Acting Consul Barnham to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 10. Political.)
Sir,

Kharpoot, October 7, 1880.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following tabulated statement showing the male population of the Vilayet of Kharpoot:—

	Protestant	Catholic	Syrian	Greek	Armenian	Mussulman	Number of Houses	Total Population
Mezré	46	103	..	9	623	190	395	971
Kharpoot City	216	42	211	..	1,617	3,916	3,561	6,992
Villages near Kharpoot	639	740	..	..	13,450	30,650	19,299	45,688
Arabkir	403	103	..	..	4,275	9,511	6,955	14,293
Nahié of Argavan	..	..	..	..	..	6,787	2,827	5,787
Egin	..	..	..	283	3,666	6,903	1,982	11,056
Nahié of Egin	98	..	..	..	1,417	5,998	3,251	7,513
Keban Maden	31	..	..	47	242	2,806	1,717	5,126
Nahié of Chemiskézek	69	..	..	63	2,152	6,425	3,371	8,729
Perri	..	..	..	..	3,638	1,520	1,782	5,156
Nahié of Pertek	..	..	..	..	377	1,939	1,803	2,316
Total for Sandjak of Kharpoot	1,502	998	211	425	31,455	76,845	48,273	110,626
Argana Maden (town, sandjak)	30	..	..	524	286	4,652	2,367	5,501
Nahié of Argana	..	..	..	..	850	7,923	3,853	8,776
Nahié of Choonkoosh	180	..	..	..	1,382	4,142	2,547	5,823
Nahié of Egil	..	..	..	..	1,135	13,307	3,883	14,746
Nahié of Chermook	195	..	..	..	511	8,985	4,047	9,681
Polu	77	..	..	..	5,546	21,820	10,405	27,443
Nahié of Chabakchoor	..	..	..	..	472	4,703	2,718	5,176
Nahié of Vashin and Karabekyan	..	..	..	..	..	2,372	901	2,312
Suverek	115	..	..	..	767	14,473	7,301	15,180
Nahié of Kemjinagh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nahié of Karakeji	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nahié of Bejan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total for Argana Maden	615	120	..	524	10,889	82,317	38,012	94,637
Total for vilayet	2,117	1,118	211	949	42,344	158,152	86,285	205,263

These statistics have been extracted from the Government records, and in the case of the Christians are framed from a list kept by the Government, which shows the number of those who pay the soldier tax; and, in the case of the Mussulmans, from a separate list kept at the Government konak.

I consider them totally untrustworthy as representing either the Christian or Mussulman populations; but the comparative statement prepared at the Patriarchate is also incorrect, although probably not to such an extent as this. The male population alone is represented in the present tabular statement; and although the fact is not stated on the Armenian Patriarch's list, the figures shown therein are quite incomprehensible, if that list purports to contain females also. I apprehend that the number of males and females in Turkey is held to be nearly equal, and that, to represent the total Christian population, the 165,000 Christians shown in the Patriarch's list, as well as the 16,790 shown in the Government list, should be doubled.

For the purpose of comparison, however, I propose to keep to the totals shown in the two lists. In the Patriarch's list the total number of male Christians is given as 165,000, whereas in the Government list it stands as 46,790, nearly one-fourth of the former. The total number of Mussulmans in the Armenian list, supposing the Kurds and Kizilbashis to be included in their number, would be 125,000; in the Government list it reads as 158,145.

The insignificant total of Christians shown in the Government list represents those who have been registered for payment of the soldier tax. Although entered here as a total of population, no one would pretend that it in any way represented the true total. The amount of soldier tax paid to the Government of Kharpoot during the past year was 1,210,012 piastres. This sum, and the proportion in which it was contributed to by the various communities, was taken as a basis by those who made out the Armenian list. In the city of Kharpoot, however, and the adjacent villages a more careful census was conducted, the number of males being registered from house to house.

The amount of soldier tax per head is calculated at 28 piastres, which sum divided into 1,210,012 piastres, gives 44,287 Christians, which is not far below the total recorded in the Government list. The total number of Mussulmans in the Government list would represent those who were serving as soldiers, those who had served their time, those who were eligible for service, and those who were exempted. Added to these, though not specified, would be some Kurds and Kizilbashis entered at random. In the Armenian

Patriarch's list the nomad Kurds and Kizilbashis have separate entries, the Kurds being stated in round numbers as 40,000 and the Kizilbashis as 15,000.

I am unable to judge of the correctness of these figures, but I do not think it would be wrong to classify them as Mussulmans, for a very large number of them are nominally such.

In the Armenian list the Protestants of this vilayet are given as 10,000, which is an excessive total. There are, as a matter of fact, 3,178 male Protestants in this vilayet. The Armenian missionaries receive regular Returns showing the number of Protestants in every district, and considering the large total of Protestants stated in the Armenian list, I am inclined to consider all the totals for the Christian communities as exaggerated. The words "Syriens Nestoriens" should be read as "Syriens Jacobites." There were no Nestorians here when the Armenian tabular statement was made out, though a few found their way here subsequently during the famine. Very few Syrian Jacobites are to be found here, and the total 5,000 is unaccountable; indeed the small total of 211, given in the Government list, would be as worthy of credit. The total number of Greeks would probably be far less than 5,000.* The Greeks form a small colony at Argana Maden, and there are a few at Egin, Keban Maden, and Chemishkezek, but a mere handful.

A fresh census of this vilayet, which I understand is in contemplation, if intended to be trustworthy, would require several months' hard work, and be full of difficulty.

I have made it a practice, in visiting the villages near Diarbekir, to inquire into the amount and distribution of the population, but I do not consider that I have ever gathered accurate statements. The villagers are always suspicious of one's object in asking the information, and if, as is generally the case, they suppose that your visit has to do with the soldier tax, they wilfully understate their numbers.

As your Excellency is perhaps aware, the soldier tax is collected from all alike, including the old, young, deformed, and spiritual heads of communities. A Firman was issued some years ago exempting the latter, and it was, at the time, considered a great concession. The Firman was, however, ambiguously worded, and its meaning proved to be that although those above mentioned would not individually pay the tax, somebody would be required to pay it for them. Accordingly the entire Christian population of a town or village is taken by the Government, and from every 180 men 5,000 piastres are required. In the towns, the religious communities arrange the distribution of the burden, and the richer members undertake the payment of the tax for those who are too poor to pay or who are nominally exempted by the Firman above referred to. Each man shares the payment according to his means. In the villages, however, the burden of the tax falls upon all alike, and the father of a family of twelve sons, however poor he may be, must find the money to pay for all.

The fact that the Armenian list gives a total Christian population of 165,000, shows to what an enormous extent the Christians evade payment of the soldier tax by understating their numbers in the manner I have stated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

In charge of the Vice-Consulate of Diarbekir.

Inclosure 2 in No. 182.

Memorandum by Major Trotter on Mr. Barnham's Despatch No. 10, Political, of October 7, 1880.

MR. BARNHAM'S despatch is written under the erroneous impression that the Patriarchal list includes males only, whereas I was myself informed at the Patriarchate, and have learned from other sources, that the Patriarchal list includes both males and females.

Were it not so, we should have 20,000 as the Patriarchal number of Protestants, whereas Mr. Barnham states the actual number to be 3,178 males, i.e., 6,356 persons. The Syrians also would figure at 10,000, whereas they really may be counted by hundreds.

The official figures given for the Gregorian Armenians show 42,544 males, i.e., 85,088 persons, whereas the Patriarch gives 140,000 persons.

I was always of opinion that as regards the Kharpoot Vilayet, the numbers of

* Greeks, 2,000; Armeno-Greeks, 3,000; total, 5,000.

Christians given in the official lists were much under-rated, and it is probable that the Patriarchal estimate is in this case much nearer the truth than the official one.

As regards the Patriarch's estimates of the Mahommedan population, I have, I think, satisfactorily proved on a former occasion that no reliance whatever can be placed on them.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.

Therapia, October 28, 1880.

P.S.—I observe that in the official lists supplied to Baker Pasha the Moslem population of Aegana Maden was put down at 93,023 males, whereas in the official list supplied by Mr. Barnham the number is put at 82,310.

No. 183.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 523.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed to Major Trotter by Mr. Barnham, giving a list of some of the Kurdish Aghas who have escaped from Aleppo and Sivas, and reporting various occurrences in the Vilayets of Kharpoot and Diarbekir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Acting Consul Barnham to Major Trotter.

(No. 8. Political.) *Kharpoot, October* 5, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the following list of Kurdish Aghas escaped from Aleppo and Sivas, received this day. I am, of course, unable to judge how nearly it represents the total number of those who are at large. Some of them escaped many months ago :—

1. Ibrahim Agha, of Mulan.*
2. Mohammed Mamoh, Tamunun Oghlu.*
3. Amon Alyavi Mamoh, Tamunun Oghlu.*
4. Khalil Beg, son of Eyoub Agha, of Karagitchi.*
5. Brother of Khalil Beg.*
6. Daoud Agha, of Karagitchi.*
7. Hussein Kancha, of the Dunadi tribe.*
8. Moustoh Kouttoh, of Rushkatali.*
9. Shahboh Ayvart, of Midiat.*
10. Brother of the above.*
11. Chatoh, Agha of Kineinar.*
12. Ten Aghas of Botan, names omitted.†
13. Mohammed, son of Muhei Kocher †
14. Sahidó Mirbó Agha, of Beshirig.†
15. Peninari Bekir.†
16. Mehemet Ali, nephew of Fatah Bey, of Ghazan.†
17. Genboh Papour.†
18. Seif-ed-din Beg, of Hazro, now in Diarbekir.†
19. Ibrahim Beg, of Fakheen.‡
20. Amer Beg.‡
21. Kulli.‡

* Escaped from Sivas.
† Escaped from Aleppo.
‡ Names furnished by Protestant preacher of Fakheen, Baron Geragos.

Reports of crime and disorder come in from all quarters. About ten days ago a caravan was plundered by Kurds three hours from Diarbekir; a Christian inhabitant of Diarbekir was killed, and a large sum of money plundered.

Last week a fight took place in the streets of Heine between two Turks, both being killed. Similar events have so frequently occurred at this place that it is disgraceful that the Diarbekir Government does nothing to check them.

In the neighbourhood of Kharpoot four cases of assassination are reported this week. Three days ago the Moukhtar's son, of Jib, a Mussulman village in the Kharpoot Plain, killed a Christian at Bismischin, also in the plain. About the same day the watchman of the Tadam Monastery was killed by Kurds. A similar crime was perpetrated a few days earlier at Komk, a village four hours from here, and about the same time a murder took place at Güljik, the Lake of Kharpoot. In these four cases the victims were Christians.

The Governor-Generals of these two vilayets have been travelling for some time past, a very necessary proceeding if undertaken with the object of reforming abuses and intimidating offenders. Aziz Pasha has, I believe, done good service. While at Chabakchoor he received notice from some sheep-merchants, who were passing through the district with a convoy of 12,000 sheep, that a band of men, forming part of a Kurdish tribe located within the Diarbekir Vilayet, had made a raid upon the sheep, carrying off 2,000. Accompanied by a troop of fifty soldiers, the Pasha at once proceeded in chase of the Kurds, and, eighteen hours after the event, succeeded in recovering the greater number of the sheep and arrested several of the offenders. Some made good their escape to the other side of the vilayet boundary-line, and, not wishing to interfere with the work of the Diarbekir Government, the Pasha let them off. On counting the sheep it was found that there were 150 missing. To compensate the merchants for this loss the Pasha ordered some cattle belonging to the Kurds to be taken, sold by auction, and the amount representing the value of the 150 sheep to be paid to the merchants. As the proceeds of the sale of cattle more than covered this loss, the Pasha brought the surplus with him to Kharpoot, with the intention of devoting it to the repair of the Kharpoot prison, and, from personal inspection, I am sure the money could not be better spent. The robber Kurds accompanied the Pasha to Kharpoot, and are now lodged in that prison which their money will have to repair. This is the proper way to treat the Kurds, and I wish that such an example were followed in the Vilayet of Diarbekir.

The Vali of Diarbekir, whom I met last Saturday at Malatia, has not been doing good work. This is the first occasion on which the people of Malatia have seen their Governor-General, and they complain most bitterly of him. Highway robberies are of constant occurrence on the road between the old and new towns, burglaries frequently occur within Malatia, and the first night I slept there the adjoining house was broken into. The people of Malatia complain of the utter disinclination the Pasha displays to perform any one useful or necessary thing which he is asked to do, and of the flippant, heedless way in which he treats most people who address themselves to him.

A police force was organized there, as at Diarbekir, and for some months performed good service. But it is the old story. Thieves are arrested and set free again, and the police become demoralized. It was represented to me, though it is a question of which I am not yet able to judge, that the provisions of the Sheri are, in many cases, totally at variance with those of the Regulations contained in the Destour, and that offenders are sometimes acquitted by the former, whereas they should be condemned by the latter. The Vali's attention was directed to this insecurity of property, and to the bad state of the roads, but his general answer to applicants was that they should do what was needful themselves. He appeared to be so struck by the fact that the inhabitants of Malatia are much more prosperous than those of Diarbekir as to consider it incumbent on the people to undertake their own reforms. The Acting Mutessarif of Malatia, Osman Beg, though not of very high character, is not unpopular. A Mutessarif, named Sheik Beg, was nominated many months ago, but has not yet arrived. An excellent Procureur-Général, Emin Effendi, formerly at Bagdad, has recently come to Malatia. The post of Sub-Procureur-Général is vacant, the official holding that appointment having been recently dismissed for corrupt practices.

The comparative prosperity of Malatia is very striking. It possesses the advantage of a most abundant water supply; vegetation is most luxuriant; crops of wheat, barley, millet, Indian corn, cotton, and every variety of garden produce are so thickly grown as to leave waste very little of the soil.

The largest source of wealth, however, is the opium crop, which promises to become very important. One oke of opium sells for 3½ liras; the crop in the neighbourhood of Malatia is valued at over 100,000 liras, and it obtains a ready market in Europe. Tobacco, although of inferior quality, is very extensively grown. Large quantities are to be seen in the gardens of the ruined city of Old Malatia, and my attention was here called to the fact that to watch over the entire extent of the ruins, and prevent the smuggling of tobacco, there was only one Kolji Bashi resident on the spot. The Government give no assistance, although a large staff of zaptiehs would certainly be necessary to effectively guard so large a crop.

The tithes are almost all gathered in, but the Government is selling them in large quantities. To provide against scarcity in the Kharpoot Vilayet, Aziz Pasha proposes to keep a reserve of 25,000 kilós for use in the depth of winter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM,
In charge of the Vice-Consulate at Diarbekir.

No. 184.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 532.)

Therapia, November 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Major Trotter, forwarding a list of some of the more important officials, civil and military, connected with the vilayets in his Consular district, with remarks on their characters, &c.

I would suggest that this Report should be printed, and copies supplied for the use of this Embassy, as it might be found desirable to communicate it, very confidentially, to some of Her Majesty's Consuls in Turkey at a future day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—At my request Colonel Wilson is preparing a similar list with regard to the Turkish officials in the vilayets of his Consular district, which I shall have the honour of forwarding to your Lordship on a future occasion.

G. J. G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 184.

Major Trotter to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 45.)

Therapia, October 26, 1880.

Sir,

IN compliance with verbal instructions received from your Excellency, I have the honour to submit a short list of names and characters of some of the more important officials, civil and military, connected with the vilayets in my Consular district.

Being personally better acquainted with the officials of the Diarbekir Vilayet than with any others, I have included in my list the subordinate officials in that vilayet only. For the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, and Kharput, I have written to the Vice-Consuls to supply, at an early date, detailed lists of the officials and other principal Notables in their respective districts.

I have also added a short list of names from where, in my opinion, selection might with advantage be made for various high appointments in the frontier provinces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 184.

List of some of the more important Officials and ex-Officials connected with the Kurdistan Consulate with whom Major Trotter is personally acquainted, with a few Notes added as to Character, &c.

1. MUSHIR Ghazi Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha:—
   Ex-Commander-in-chief, 4th Corps d'Armée; also for a short time Vali of Erzeroum. A brave soldier, and certainly one of the best Turkish Generals. Intelligent, well-intentioned, and, I believe, honest. Would, I should think, make a good and upright administrator. Is well thought of by the Armenians themselves. I am very friendly with him, having been a great deal with him during the late war. Speaks French.
2. Mushir Ismail Kurd Pasha:—
   Ex-Commander-in-chief, 4th Corps d'Armée. For several years Vali of Diarbekir and also of Erzeroum. A brave, energetic, honest, good-intentioned soldier; but a very ignorant and somewhat fanatical man. Age about 73. Is now Commander-in-chief of the 1st Corps d'Armée (Garde Impériale). We are great friends, as I was attached to his Corps d'Armée for several months during the war. No French.
3. Mushir Dervisch Pasha:—
   Ex-Commander-in-chief, 4th Corps d'Armée. Now Governor of Salonica. An able, intelligent officer, but one of the most corrupt men in Turkey. No French.
4. Mushir Samih Pasha:—
   Now Commander-in-chief, 4th Corps d'Armée. A *plaisant* companion, and speaks French well; but is extremely corrupt, and believed to have strong Russian proclivities. Is a most mischievous man in his present position. I do not think highly of his abilities.
5. Mushir Phosphor Mustapha Pasha:—
   Governor of Erzeroum. Ex-Minister of War, and several times Vali of Erzeroum. Honest, a good Mahommedan, somewhat fanatic at heart. Incompetent, and very much in the hands of his Medjliss. Speaks French fluently. Is very anti-Russian.
6. Mushir Izzet Pasha:—
   Governor of Diarbekir. An ex-Minister of War. A weak, incapable, and corrupt Governor; entirely in the hands of his "Mektubji" and other members of the Medjliss. One of the worst Valis I have ever met. Understands French. Is a hard drinker. Would probably have been dismissed long ago, but the Ministers are afraid of his intrigues at Constantinople.
7. Hassan Pasha:—
   Vali of Van. Formerly Governor of Kharput, where he had a very good reputation for honesty and energy. At Van, where he has been Vali for several years, he is said to have lost all energy; to be wanting in good will. I found him very intelligent, and apparently desirous of doing well. No French.
8. Aarif Pasha:—
   Vali of Bitlis. Appointed last winter on the formation of Bitlis into a vilayet. An intelligent man, but very corrupt, and, I believe, a very bad administrator. No French.
9. Aziz Pasha:—
   Vali of Kharput. A very intelligent and well-meaning man; speaks French fluently; and has an excellent reputation for honesty and administrative capacity.
10. Yussuf Pasha:—
    Ex-Minister of Finance; and late Governor of Trebizond. Now Commissary Imperial for Reforms in Erzeroum and Van Vilayets. A fairly honest and very enlightened and well-intentioned man, with a good head for mathematics. Entirely wanting in energy, that although I believe he would make a good Minister he would probably make a very bad Vali for one of the frontier districts. Speaks French fairly.
11. Abdine Pasha:—
    Late Commissioner for Reforms, Diarbekir, subsequently Vali of Sivas, then Salonica, and later on Foreign Minister. An upright, able, hard-working, well-intentioned, clever man, but somewhat too theoretical.

12. Baker Pasha:—
Would make a good Governor or Military Commissioner for the frontier provinces.

13. Abdul Rahman Pasha:—
Formerly Vali of Diarbekir. Now at Bagdad. A pleasant, intelligent, well-meaning man. Well disposed towards Christians. Wanting in firmness; but otherwise, I believe, a very good Governor.

14. Aghapeyan Serkis Effendi:—
A Gregorian Armenian. Member of Council of State. Second Commissioner for Reforms with Yussuf Pasha. An able, intelligent man; but is unpopular amongst Armenians, and is of doubtful integrity.

15. Manas Effendi:—
A Roman Catholic Armenian. Second Commissioner with Abédine Pasha. An energetic, clever man, but rather flighty. Is poor, and is therefore probably honest. Is now in Constantinople wanting employment.

16. Saïd Pasha:—
Was Second Commissioner with Baker Pasha. A very superior man. Has been Governor of Cyprus, of Kars, and of Thessaly, at all of which places he bore an excellent reputation. Would make an excellent Vali or Minister.

List of Mutessarifs (alphabetically arranged).

17. Arghanah Maaden, Roumi Effendi:—
An honest, energetic, and hard-working official, but nearly stone deaf; has just been appointed Governor of Kerbela.

18. Baïburt, Yussuf Pasha, of Kars:—
A young man, nephew of Kurd Ismaïl Pasha; was formerly Mutessarif of Bayazid, and has only just been named to Baïburt. Ill-educated, and, I suspect, fanatic.

19. Bashkaleh, Tossoun Pasha:—
Governor of Bashkaleh. Ignorant, but said to be honest and well-intentioned.

20. Bayazid, Ibrahim Bey, of Mardin:—
Formerly Governor of Suleimanieh. Very corrupt and fanatic, but energetic and probably capable.

21. Erzingian.—Only newly appointed.

22. Malatia.—Only newly appointed.

23. Mardin, Said Pasha:—
Governor of Mardin. An honest and well-meaning man, but has apparently no administrative capacity.

24. Saört, Salih Pasha:—
Governor of Sert. An Albanian. Very energetic, but said to be corrupt. Was formerly Governor of Kharput.

List of Officials, Diarbekir Vilayet.

6. Vali, Mushir Izzet Pasha:—
An ex-Minister of War. A weak, incapable, and corrupt Governor; entirely in the hands of his Mektubji and other members of the Medjliss One of the worst Valis I have ever met. Understands French. Is a hard drinker. Would probably have been dismissed long ago, but the Ministers are afraid of his intrigues at Constantinople.

25. Military Commandant, Liva Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha:—
An intelligent, well-meaning man, and, I believe, honest.

26. Defterdar:—
I know nothing against his moral character, but he is extremely ignorant, and all his subordinates plunder.

27. The Mektubji:—
A thorough rascal, and very corrupt. He leads the Vali, and is responsible for much of the misgovernment of the vilayet. His removal, as well as that of the Vali, is absolutely indispensable if reforms are to be introduced.

28. Inspector of Justice, Ferid Bey:—
An Albanian. An excellent officer, young, very energetic. Clever and upright, and very anxious to introduce real reforms into the country; is a protégé of Said Pasha, the present First Minister.

29. The Cadi, Ahmed Khouloussi Effendi:—
Once a favourite candidate for post of Sheikh-ul-Islam, now an exile at Diarbekir. Was sent by the Sultan on special mission to Afghanistan before the late war to endeavour to bring the Ameer Shere Ali to reason. Is well disposed to the English. A *plaisant* companion, and very able man, but a great intriguer, and frightfully corrupt.

30. The Mufti:—
A very old man, and mild.

31. The Alaï Bey, or Colonel of Gendarmerie:—
An active and energetic officer, and, I believe, an honest one.

32. Binbashi, or Major of Gendarmerie:—
A thorough rogue.

33. Kol Aghassy, in charge of Diarbekir police:—
A smart active officer.

34. Members of Idaré Medjliss:—
Hadji Mehemed Agha:—
A good man.
Hadji Mahsud Effendi, ex-M.P., Diarbekir:—
A clever, smooth-spoken man, but very corrupt.
Ali Effendi:—
An able man, of great local influence, and extremely corrupt.
Johannès Agha:—
Armenian Gregorian. A quiet, respectable man.
Chaldean Bishop:—
Clever and well-meaning, but timid.
Protestant Bishop, Boyajian:—
An excellent man.
Armenian Bishop:—Vacant.
Keshishian Mikhaïl:—
Chaldean. A very corrupt, bad man.
Hodja Yussuf, ex-M.P. for Diarbekir.
Roman Catholic member of the Idaré Medjliss. Very wealthy, but one of the most unpopular men in Diarbekir.

Ex-Officials.

Khoorshid Bey:—
Formerly Chamberlain to Sultan Abdul Aziz. Was exiled from Constantinople, and appointed Governor of Mardin, from the Government of which place he was ejected for gross misconduct. Is an able, intelligent, pleasant man, but extremely corrupt. Ought never to be reappointed Governor.

Phillipos, ex-Armenian Bishop:—
A regular firebrand.

Yusuf Bey, ex-President of Municipality:—
A good man.

Hadji Nouri Effendi, present President of Court of Justice:—
An honest man, but somewhat deficient in energy.

Mardiros Effendi, a Protestant, ex-member of Criminal Court, present member of Court of Appeal:—
Very intelligent, honest, and well-meaning.

Feizulla Effendi, Second President:—
An able man, fairly honest.

Kazazian Hodja Djebour, brother of Hodja Yussuf, Roman Catholic:—
The ablest and most capable of the Diarbekir merchants, and a man of great enterprise and administrative ability. Has never accepted Government employment.

Officers of the 4th Corps d'Armée, Head-quarters, Erzingian.

Commander-in-chief, Mushir Samih Pasha:—
Vide No. 4.

35. Cavalry Division, General Ferik Fazli Pasha:—
Is well spoken of by those who know him best. No French.

36. 1st Infantry Division, General Ferik Fâzli Pasha :—
A very enlightened, superior man, but, unfortunately, spends much of his time in drinking to excess. Commanded the Sokoum-Kaleh expedition during the war.
37. 2nd Infantry Division, General Ferik Moussa Pasha :—
A Circassian, formerly in the Russian army. An able man. He commanded at Erzeroum when that place was evacuated by the Russians after the war, and maintained excellent order. Is, however, I suspect, fanatic.
38. Chief of Staff, Mehemet Khouloussi Pasha :—
I believe a good officer. Speaks French well.
39. Commandant de Place, Erzingian, Liva Mustapha Pasha :—
A very good man. Speaks French fluently.
40. Hussein Bey Mir Alai, Director of Establishments :—
A good man, and much liked by the Christians of Erzingian.
41. Iskender Bey, Mir Alai :—
A Hungarian and a Christian. An enlightened, kind-hearted man.

For the subordinate officials in the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Kharput, I have thought it best to write to the Vice-Consuls of those districts to supply at as early a date as possible the information required.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major,*
Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.

Therapia, October 25, 1880.

The following have a considerable knowledge of the frontier vilayets, and might with advantage be employed in drawing up a scheme for its better government :—

Name.	Index-number in List.
Yussuf Pasha	10
Baker Pasha	12
Abédine Pasha	11
Kurd Ismail Pasha (an experience extending over seventy years)	2
Serkis Effendi	14
Manas Effendi	15
M. Thomas Boyajian	34
Said Pasha	16

H. T.

The following would, I believe, make good Governors-General of a large province :—
Raouf Pasha (late Governor of Adrianople).
Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha.
Midhat Pasha (?).
Ahmed Hamdi Pasha (Governor of Syria).
Salik Pasha (Governor of the Islands).
Baker Pasha.

The best possible arrangement of all would perhaps be—
Governor-General of frontier provinces—Raouf Pasha.
Commander-in-chief 4th Corps d'Armée—Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha.

The following would, I believe, make good Valis for an ordinary province :—

Name.	Index number in List.
Ahmed Vefik Pasha (?)	..
Aziz Pasha	9
Abédine Pasha	11
Said Pasha	16
Abdul Rahman Pasha	13

H. T.

The following Christians of Constantinople (Armenians) have a good reputation for ability and honesty :—
Arathoon Effendi, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat.
Odian Effendi.
Portugal Mikhaïl Effendi (Six Contributions).
Arathoon Effendi (2nd).
Manas Effendi (15).
Kuyumdjian Bedros Effendi.

And would probably make good Governors or Sub-Governors.

Selim Effendi (a Maronite), Commissioner, with Mehemet Ali Pasha, during the war, and now attached to the "Six Contributions," is very highly spoken of by Baker Pasha for integrity and administrative ability.

H. T.

No. 185.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 352.) *Therapia, November* 8, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)
VICE-CONSUL, at Van telegraphs that he has been told confidentially that the Armenians are preparing for revolt, that the Czar had promised assistance, and wishes movement to begin before winter. He adds that this may not be correct, but movement not improbable as people are getting desperate, and rumours from all sides point to something stirring.

No. 186.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9, 2 P.M.)

(No. 142.) *Tehran, November* 9, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)
GOVERNOR of Goroomiah has reported that Kurds under Sheikh Obeidullah have been driven from their entrenched position at Seir, and have retired to village Ismail Kalasi, ten miles from city towards Merghever.
(Sent to Viceroy.)

No. 187.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 145.) *Tehran, November* 12, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)
SHAH yesterday sent me message through Minister for Foreign Affairs to the effect that he fully recognized all your Lordship had done to induce Porte to aid him in suppressing Kurdish outbreak; he said that Persia was using every endeavour to put it down, but that ringleaders might escape to Turkey. He earnestly begged your Lordship strongly to press upon Porte the necessity of acting up to assurances given, and of seizing Sheikh Obeidullah, his sons, and any other of the promoters of the outbreak, should they cross the frontier, and punish them in so exemplary a manner as would effectually deter Kurds in the future from disturbing the peace in Persia.
(Sent to Viceroy.)

No. 188.

Consul Billotti to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 41. Political.) *Trebizond, October* 29, 1880.
My Lord,
I AM glad to have to report that my visit in the western districts of this province has not been without beneficial results. These results are tangible, at all events, in one respect.

On being informed of the misconduct of the zaptiehs at Tripoli, Sirri Pasha, who was at Kerassond when I returned here, immediately dispatched an official to make an inquiry, and the charges against zaptiehs Ibilogloo Hassan and Topdjou Osmanogloo Hassan, the tormentors of Dubuchaliogloo Molla Khalil, of Israïl-Mâden, having been proved, they were condemned to four months' imprisonment. Their names were at the same time struck out of the list of zaptiehs, together with those of six others who were considered to be unfit for service.

The Kaïmakam of Tripoli has been called here at the same time to explain his conduct in the case in question.

I hear from other districts which I visited that the authorities, whether administrative or judicial, as well as Beys, Agas, and other oppressors, are in great dread as to what may follow when the truth is known to the Porte from my Reports upon the state of things in that quarter.

In some places the Courts of Justice have taken in hand cases to which they had paid little attention, or that had been completely set aside.

In consequence of my first communication with regard to the Tripoli zaptiehs, Sirri Pasha having begged me through the Mektubdji Fehmi Effendi, who enjoys and is worthy of his confidence, to give him further information on the state of things, I complied with his request, and Sirri Pasha has directed that the Armenian member of the Criminal Courts of Appeal of Trebizond should proceed to Gumushané and Keurtün and inquire into the case of Fotogloo's death in consequence of torture inflicted on him by Mussulmans of Sengudenly (despatch No. 38, Political).

The stir that my visit in some districts of this vilayet has produced among Turkish functionaries is the best proof of the unsettled condition of affairs, and of the satisfactory results that may be obtained when Turkish officials, as well as population, have to deal with really independent officers, for it cannot be considered that the Valis themselves enjoy liberty of action, even within the limits of the powers granted to them by the Porte.

Sirri Pasha is busily engaged in making inquiries at Kerassond. A force of zaptiehs that he forwarded to arrest brigands at Abtal (perhaps Ali Aga's son and followers) had to fight against them. Some of the brigands were arrested, amongst whom one severely wounded, and hopes are entertained that the remainder will be soon apprehended. A few of the zaptiehs were wounded, one very badly.

On hearing yesterday of these occurrences, I considered essential to telegraph to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople as follows:—

"The Governor-General, who is at Kerassond, is adopting energetic measures for apprehension of perturbators of public peace. He should receive encouragement and support from the Porte and efficient co-operation from Courts of Justice; without these two indispensable conditions his action, instead of attaining satisfactory results, will be conducive to serious complications."

The opinion which I expressed in the above telegram is based on facts.

Sirri Pasha having inspected the eastern part of this vilayet, seems to have found things to be as bad as in the districts which I myself visited. At Atina and Hoppa a petition bearing 500 signatures was handed to him against the Tchortanogloos, descendants of Dere Beys. He convened about 4,000 people, and asked a show of hands in their favour; no one moved. On asking against them, all hands were raised. Having taken further information which convinced him that two at least of the members of the family in question had perpetrated murders and other nefarious deeds, he caused them to be apprehended and conveyed to Trebizond. Their relatives, it would seem, are having a paper signed against Sirri Pasha. Some of them came here, where they have influential connections in and out of the Courts of Justice, and strenuous efforts are being made to obtain the liberation of the prisoners. I make not the least doubt that they will ultimately succeed to do so; if all other means fail, money is sure to attain this end.

Whatever measures Sirri Pasha may adopt in the western districts, the final result will be identical to that of the preceding case, unless he finds support from the Porte and co-operation from the Courts of Justice.

I cannot help repeating that the solidarity which exists between oppressors and native Government officials is a bar to all improvement in the administrative and judicial services.

Trebizond is not an exception in this respect. It is perhaps worse here than in the districts, owing to the more extended influence which Government officials enjoy in the capital of the province.

All native officials should be employed in other provinces, especially those

who hold responsible employments, as Mutessarifs, Kaïmakams, Judges, Chief Clerks, &c.

There are here, as at Tripoli, party strifes, the influence of which the Valis themselves cannot escape. They cannot do otherwise than side with one of them for support, and are often obliged to admit unfit persons in Government employments.

This arises out of the Governor-General's position being precarious. Any complaint against them by hostile parties, whoever they may be, is taken into consideration by the Porte, while little heed is given to the reports and suggestion of Valis.

The latter have now, besides, to contend with the judicial authorities, who set at liberty any perturbators of the public peace, whom they cause to be arrested, though their crimes may be of public notoriety.

The prisons of Trebizond have been emptied, not in consequence of regular trials, but by corruption. The same may happen with the two Tchortanogloos, and with any other ruffian that may be apprehended at Kerassond or in the other western districts.

A new President of the Courts of Appeal, Apig Effendi, having just arrived, it must be hoped that things will take a better turn.

The ex-President of Trebizond, Réouf Bey, is appointed to Van.

Furthermore, it is by exception that Valis find among their subordinates a capable and honest functionary to assist them in the discharge of their duties.

Under these circumstances, however well disposed, qualified, and energetic he may be, a Governor-General will fail to restore order and tranquillity in the province confided to his administration, so long as are not removed the main causes of evil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 189.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 542.)
Constantinople, November 8, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 460 of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note from Assim Pasha informing me of the measures which have been taken by the Turkish authorities for the relief of the destitute refugees at Ismid and Ghemlek.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, le 31 Octobre, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI reçu, avec ses annexes, la note que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 25 Septembre dernier relativement à la situation des émigrés se trouvant sur la côte d'Ismid à Guemlek.

Je dois d'abord remercier votre Excellence des sentiments toute d'humanité qui ont dicté sa démarche. Je n'y saurais mieux répondre qu'en lui exposant ici la situation telle qu'elle est dépeinte dans un Rapport de Mazhar Pasha.

A la suite de la nouvelle parvenue dernièrement à Constantinople de l'apparition de maladies parmi les émigrés établis dans le Sandjak d'Ismid, deux médecins et autant de pharmaciens, pourvus des médicaments nécessaires, ont été envoyés sur les lieux pour prodiguer leurs soins aux malades. Quant aux émigrés qui manquaient de gîte, on les a abrités sous des toutes fournies par les autorités militaires et l'on a pris d'urgence les dispositions nécessaires pour compléter leur installation.

Que ces gens mourraient d'inanition on n'en a aucune connaissance; d'autant plus que les salaires journaliers et les rations qu'ils touchent sont faits pour les mettre à l'abri d'un tel danger.

De nouveaux ordres viennent d'être encore donnés à qui de droit pour redoubler d'efforts à l'effet d'activer l'installation des émigrés et de contribuer dans les limites du possible au soulagement des maux de ceux qui se trouvent dans la détresse.

Nous avons lieu d'espérer que, grâce à un ensemble de mesures, une amélioration sensible ne tardera guère à se produire dans la situation de ces malheureux.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 190.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 553.)

Constantinople, November 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose two despatches from Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter, relating to the Kurdish question.

I am following this Kurdish movement with the greatest interest, but I cannot obtain much reliable information.

I trust, however, that I may be able within a few days to forward to your Lordship some interesting matter connected with it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 190.

Lieutenant Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 31. Political. Confidential.)

Van, October 5, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE been informed by Samih Pasha that a rather serious difficulty has arisen between the people of Sheikh Obeydullah and the Persian authorities. According to Samih Pasha's account, some fifteen or sixteen years ago a certain Hamzo Agha, from the neighbourhood of Kerkuk, was arrested and sent to Constantinople. After remaining in prison there nearly fifteen years, he was released on promise of good behaviour; but instead of remaining quiet near Kerkuk, he went over the Persian frontier, and was made Chief of the Menturi tribe of Kurds. About two months ago the Persian authorities of Souk Bulak arrested a relative of his for non-payment of dues, or some other reason. Hamzo Agha went to Souk Bulak, and offered to pay the money required if a little delay was accorded. But the Persian Governor ordered Hamzo to be arrested, who thereupon drew his knife and commenced an onslaught on those present. He killed and wounded several, and, leaping on his horse, escaped. A report of the occurrence was sent to Tabreez, and troops were at once ordered to go and punish the Menturi and arrest Hamzo. The latter then appealed to Sheikh Obeydullah, and Samih Pasha informed me to-day that he had received fresh intelligence that the Sheikh's son, Abdulkader, has joined the Menturi with between 5,000 and 6,000 men, and is now marching on Souk Bulak; but the Persian troops are near, and an engagement is expected.

Samih Pasha also informed me that Sheikh Obeydullah has sworn on the Koran to remain faithful to the Sultan. There are, however, other rumours that the Sheikh is beginning to stir again against the Turkish authority; and I must add that some people say that Samih Pasha is exaggerating the real state of things as regards Sheikh Obeydullah, in order to show the necessity of his remaining here, as he does not wish to be moved.

My own opinion is that, whatever may be the importance of the present move against the Persian authorities, the Sheikh has some scheme in meditation. Besides what I learned during my visit to Hakkiari, as reported in my despatch No. 23, Political, of the 11th July, 1880, I have heard since that the Sheikh has held renewed consultations with the Kurdish Chiefs, but their object I am unable to say, whether against the Turkish authority, or in view of the rumours of the establishment of an Armenian State, which have so much agitated the Moslem population of these regions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 190.

Lieutenant Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 32. Political.)

Van, October 5, 1880.

Sir,

AS the autumn advances the depredations and plunderings of the Kurds are becoming very numerous. Hardly a day passes without some fresh occurrence being reported.

On the 29th September the priest of the Armenian village of Gowantz, in Nurduz, with another man, came to me and reported that a day or two previously their village had been attacked by 120 Mamkhoran Kurds, who tried to carry off their flocks. The villagers resisted, however; five Kurds were killed, and several wounded on both sides, and the Kurds had to retire. The villagers were, however, afraid that the Kurds would return in larger numbers and take their revenge, and begged me to try and get the authorities to send some troops for their protection.

I accordingly saw the authorities next morning, and Samih Pasha promised to send some cavalry. Up to the present time, however, none have gone, but I have this evening received a note from the Mouavin, saying that a party is to start to-night. The Turks, however, do not look with any favour on this unusual hardihood of the Armenians in showing fight.

The day before yesterday, again, a caravan was attacked on the Khotour road within five hours of Van. Some thirty loads were carried off and several persons wounded. Reports also reach me of robberies in Arjesh and El Jivas, where the Vali is at present. It is said that he refuses to listen to any complaints, saying that he has not come to punish the Kurds but to organize the communes. It is also said that he has distributed arms to the Kurds near Arjesh to enable them to resist the raids of tribes from the Persian frontier, and, when it was urged to him that the Kurds would probably use these arms against the Christians to plunder them, said there was no danger. An impartial observer cannot but think there is danger, seeing what is going on elsewhere.

Reports from Hakkiari indicate that there is almost complete anarchy there. Kurds, especially the Shikaks, are overrunning the whole country, and the Government seems to be powerless. One of the principal Turks here, the President of the Civil Court, said to me the day before yesterday, "I do not know if you are intending to make an excursion in any direction at present, but I advise you not to go to Hakkiari; the condition of things there is not good. Before, many untrue stories were told about robbery, but now it is true." The reason the Kurds are so active at present is that the harvest is just over, and they are collecting their provisions for the winter.

To add to the general insecurity, the zaptiehs here struck yesterday. Being ordered to proceed to certain places to make arrests or keep order, they refused to go, saying they had received neither pay nor rations for forty or fifty months. In fact, the whole Government is paralyzed for want of money. I saw Samih Pasha to-day, and urged him to take some measures to restrain the Kurdish depredations. He replied, "I do what I can, but what can I do? We have no money; you know the zaptiehs have refused to act, and I have no money to move regular troops." The revenue is diminished on account of the results of the famine, and what does come in is swallowed up by hungry and corrupt officials and the peremptory demands for money from Constantinople, so that none is left for the payment of the subordinate employés, troops, or zaptiehs, and the whole Government and administration is at a standstill. The condition of things is most lamentable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 191.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 557. Confidential.)

Constantinople, November 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, in original, Colonel Wilson's Report on the character and antecedents of some of the Turkish officials in Anatolia, to which I alluded in my despatch No. 532 of the 1st instant.

I venture to suggest that this Report, as well as Major Trotter's on the same subject, should be printed, and copies furnished to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 63. Secret.)

Constantinople, November 8, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, notes on the character and antecedents of some of the Turkish officials in Anatolia.

The information is not at present very full, but I have requested Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls within my jurisdiction to furnish further details.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 191.

Notes on the Character and Antecedents of some of the Turkish Officials in Anatolia.

(Secret.)

Sivas Vilayet.

VALI (Governor-General), Ismail Hakki Pasha:—
Formerly Mutessarif of Samsun; whilst at that place his "corrupt practices had so far attracted the attention of the Porte that the latter gave orders to Yussuf Pasha, ex-Governor-General of Trebizond, and subsequently to Said Pasha, to make an inquiry into his conduct. But there were in the hands of the Porte so evident proofs of the culpability of the functionary in question that both Valis declined to interfere, as the object of the Government only appeared to be to shift on them the responsibility of divulging the fraud" (Biliotti). Whilst at Samsun was said by the Circassians to take bribes for the release of prisoners. Before leaving for Sivas made many specious promises to Sir H. Layard which he has not fulfilled (see Asiatic papers). At Sivas has allowed all the prisoners, including well-known highwaymen, murderers, and the Kurd Beys imprisoned by Abédine Pasha, to escape. Has completely fallen under the influence of Mehemet Ali and the Sivas "ring," and lately passed a night in the bath with Mehemet Ali and two prominent members of the "ring."

Mutessarif of Amasia, Izzet Pasha:—
One of the most notoriously corrupt men in Turkey; a gambler, and drinks. Has been twice banished and dismissed from his posts for peculation and dishonesty. Russian sympathies.

Mutessarif of Tokat, Raouf Bey:—
Was Secretary to Abédine Pasha when Reform Commissioner, and in that capacity took bribes at Kharput. Is not otherwise a bad man.

Mutessarif of Kara-Hissar:—
Is much under the influence of local notables, and has done little to protect the people from them.

Kaïmakam of Kotchkiri (Zara), Bahri Bey:—
Suspended by Abédine Pasha, and since dismissed; was once Kaïmakam of Azizieh, whence he was dismissed. Has ill-treated Christians, misgoverned the people, and protected robbers. Is son of Mustafa Pasha and nephew of Ismail Hakki Pasha.

Kaïmakam of Azizieh, Mohammed Emin Bey:—
Now Mutessarif of Seres; an Albanian; was very good as Kaïmakam of Azizieh, and specially energetic in suppressing brigandage.

Kaïmakam of Gurun:—
A Circassian; energetic, and has done well in his caza.

Adlié Mufettish (Inspector of Justice), Sivas Vilayet, Fekham Bey:—
Formerly in same capacity at Konieh, where he is known to have taken bribes. Is believed to have taken bribes at Sivas; does not attend to his work, and has done nothing to improve the state of the Courts.

Mudaiounioum (Public Prosecutor), Sivas, Bey:—
A man of good family; local notable, and well acquainted with the Ottoman law. Is said to take bribes, and has latterly shown himself a partizan in cases which have come before him. Has become connected with Mehemet Ali by marriage. Is believed to have had an interest in the release of the Kurd Beys and robbers from the Sivas prison.

Assistant Public Prosecutor, Amasia, son of Beder Khan Bey, the celebrated Kurd Chief:—
A young man, with no knowledge of law, and hostile to Christians. Takes bribes.

Assistant Public Prosecutor, Kara-Hissar:—
Is ignorant of law; drinks; and has been mixed up in some disgraceful scenes at Kara-Hissar.

Muhassibiji (Chief Accountant), Amasia:—
A good man; was suspended from office about a month ago.

Mektubji, Sivas, Abdullah Kholoussi Bey:—
A good man. Resigned in consequence of public insults offered to him by Mehemet Ali.

Criminal Appeal Court Judge, Sivas:—
A good man, well acquainted with law.

Civil Court of First Instance Judge, Sivas:—
A clever man, and most honest Judge I have met; but extremely fanatical as regards Christians.

Civil Court of First Instance Judge, Amasia:—
Is very corrupt and unjust. A relation of the Sheikh-ul-Islam.

Angora Vilayet.

Vali, Khurschid Pasha:—
Is 80 years old, and too infirm for his work; is under the influence of his seal-bearer, a Maronite Christian, who takes bribes for him. Is weak and wants energy. Has good interest at Stamboul.

Mutessarif of Kirschehr, Izzet Bey:—
A capable man, but weak and timid in the execution of his duty.

Mutessarif of Yuzgat, Salih Pasha:—
An old man, but more energetic and honest than most Turkish officials. Has done much to check brigandage in his sandjak, and has friendly feelings towards Christians.

Mutessarif of Kaisariyeh, Veysi or Weissi Pasha:—
Formerly Mutessarif of Marash. Was most unfavourably reported upon by Mr. Henderson and Lieutenant Chermside in connection with the Zeitoun affair. Was previously dismissed in disgrace from Adana.

Hady Pasha, late Mutessarif:—
Was attached to the Turkish Embassy at Berlin. Very corrupt; takes bribes, and allowed his sandjak to fall into a disgraceful state. Has good interest at Stamboul.

Kaïmakam, Ak Dagh Maden:—
A good, energetic man; has been active in trying to settle the refugees.

Assistant Public Prosecutor, Yuzgat, Fikri Effendi:—
An Armenian; an honest man and good lawyer; has recently resigned.

Assistant Public Prosecutor, Kaisariyeh:—
A Greek; takes bribes, and is a Greek partizan.

Defterdar (Accountant-General), Hasni Effendi:—
Dismissed for insulting a British subject; is a drunkard and dishonest; takes bribes. Is a relation of the Sheikh-ul-Islam.

Mektubji (Secretary-General), Angora, Mahmoud Bey:—
Was at Angora in 1874-75, and there gravely compromised in the embezzlement of public funds during the famine.

Fehmi Bey, late Mektubji:—
An intelligent, well-educated man; liked by every one; was dismissed in July last.

Civil Appeal Court Judge, Angora, the Cadi :—
A good man; said to be honest.
Criminal Appeal Court Judge, Angora, Emin Bey :—
A Kurd. Has a good reputation.
Criminal Court of First Instance Judge, Angora, Tefvik Bey :—
A local notable; very corrupt and fanatical.
Criminal Court of First Instance Judge, Kaisariyeh, Hadji Raouf Bey :—
Guilty of great peculation in caimé transactions; detains and releases prisoners unlawfully. Local notable.
Commercial Court Judge, Kaisariyeh :—
Corrupt and guilty of peculation.
President of Municipal Council, Kaisariyeh :—
Concerned in the fraudulent sale of Government lands.

Kastamuni Vilayet.

Vali, Ghalib Pasha :—
Formerly Minister of Finance. Was Vali of Aleppo, and whilst there was unfavourably reported upon by Mr. Henderson.
Mutessarif of Changora, Ahmet Velim Pasha :—
Weak, corrupt, incapable, and very inefficient. Brother of Dervish Pasha, who is now at Scutari (Albania).
Mutessarif of Boli and Mutessarif of Sinope :—
Reported by Lieutenant Kitchener, R.E., to be good men.
Kaïmakams :—
Lieutenant Kitchener reported that the Kaïmakams of the Kastamuni Vilayet were, on the whole, well qualified for their positions, but gave no particulars.
Adlié Mufettish (Inspector of Justice), Kastamuni, Assim Pasha :—
Was formerly in the Finance Department, Constantinople. Is ignorant of law, and does not profess to take any interest in it. Bribery thrives under his auspices.
Mudaiounoum (Public Prosecutor), Mahmoud Bey :—
Was dismissed on account of his liberal views; said to have been a good lawyer.

Adana Vilayet.

Vali :—
No Vali has been appointed since the death of Zia Pasha. The Acting Vali is said to be very corrupt.
Mutessarif of Kozan, Archad or Rechad Bey :—
Was well reported upon by Captain Cooper.
There is no detailed information respecting the *personnel* of the Adana Vilayet.

Konieh Vilayet.

Vali :—
An old man; weak, and much in the hands of Tahyr Bey and the local notables. Said to take bribes through a Greek servant. His son takes bribes. Is on very friendly terms with Captain Stewart, and often follows his advice. Is not, on the whole, a bad Governor.
Mutessarif of Nigdeh :—
Has been lately changed.
Mutessarif of Isbarta :—
Was formerly a servant in the Palace; is corrupt, and a drunkard.
Mutessarif of Adalia, Hafiz Mehemet Pasha :—
Is wanting in vigour, decision, energy, and business capacity; is unable to write; is in debt to Jemal Bey and under his influence; is incompetent, but fairly honest; was an Under-Chamberlain to Abdul Aziz.
Adlié Mufettish (Inspector of Justice) :—
An exceptionally good official, but drinks. Was formerly in the same position at Sivas.
Defterdar (Accountant-General) :—
Very corrupt; dismissed about three weeks ago.

Imperial Refugee Commissioner, Ali Riza Bey :—
Was Chamberlain to Abdul Aziz; also Préfet of Constantinople; now in banishment. A good man, full of energy and enterprise. Speaks French and German; married to an Austrian.
Civil Appeal Court Judge, Konieh, Cadi :—
Is fanatical, but honest.
Criminal Court of First Instance Judge, Konieh, Tahyr Bey :—
Local notable. Was dismissed from the Evkaf Department for swindling. Is clever and unscrupulous. Captain Stewart made a special report against him.
Assistant Prosecutor-General, Konieh, Ahmed Effendi, and Mustantik, Abdulla Effendi :—
Relations of Tahyr Bey, and specially reported against by Captain Stewart.

Aïdin Vilayet.

Vali, Midhat Pasha.
Mutessarif of Sarukhan :—
A good man; worked hard at the settlement of refugees and in suppressing robbery.
Mutessarif of Aïdin, the eldest son of the Kurd Chief Beder Khan Bey :—
Said to be corrupt and to take bribes.
Kaïmakams of Alashehr, Cassaba, and Aksar :—
Last spring were good men.
There is no detailed information with respect to the *personnel* of the Vilayet of Aïdin; and there have been many changes since last April, when I passed through the vilayet.

Khudavendyar (Brusa) Vilayet.

Vali, Ahmet Vevfyk Pasha :—
An ex-Grand Vizier. Was President of the Ottoman Parliament. Is the best-educated man in Turkey, but of eccentric habits. Is anxious for reform on old Turkish lines; for improvement of roads; introduction of industries, &c. Is very opinionated. Has largely assisted the refugees and indigent population in his vilayet from his private means.
Mutessarif of Kutaya, Haidar Effendi :—
A very intelligent, honest man; was formerly in the same capacity at Slivno in Eastern Roumelia, and was then much liked by the Bulgarians.
There is no detailed information with regard to the *personnel* of the Brusa Vilayet.

Biyha (Dardanelles) Sandjak.

Mutessarif, Rachid Pasha :—
Formerly at Gallipoli; was made a K.C.M.G. in consequence of Sir E. Commerell's favourable reports. A good man and active Governor.
Ferik commanding the troops, Jemal Pasha :—
An artillery officer; has a good reputation for honesty and business habits.

Ismid Sandjak.

Vali, the Préfet of Constantinople, Mazhar Pasha :—
His corruption, vices, and venality are notorious amongst Turkish officials. Lieutenant Chermside made strong remarks on his conduct whilst Reform Commissioner at Aleppo.
Mutessarif, Siret Effendi :—
Was formerly an Under-Chamberlain in the Palace. An old man of weak character, who has had no previous experience in provincial government.

Miscellaneous.

Abédine Pasha :—
Late Foreign Minister; has been Mutessarif of Thessaly, Assistant Commissioner for the Greek Boundary, Reform Commissioner for Diarbekir and Sivas, and Vali of Sivas and Salonica. Was a very good, energetic Governor; has considerable ability and great powers of work.

Hamdi Pasha:—
An ex-Grand Vizier. Was Vali of Aidin (Smyrna); now of Syria. A good man, but weak, and wants energy; tries to govern well, but is easily led by other people.

Sirri Pasha, Vali of Trebizond:—
Mr. Biliotti sends very favourable reports of his conduct of affairs. Last spring unfounded accusations were brought against him by the Porte with a view of discrediting him.

Said Pasha, Vali of Aleppo:—
Previously of Kastamuni and Angora. Educated at Woolwich. A good man, but said to be wanting in decision.

Dervish Pasha, Mushir:—
Now at Scutari in Albania. Committed frauds on a large scale at Batoum and Trebizond. Is notoriously corrupt.

Kemali Pasha:—
Was Refugee Commissioner at Sivas, and was then very corrupt, taking bribes from every one.

Jemal Bey:—
A notable of Adalia; late Judge of the Criminal Court of First Instance, Adalia. An open protector of thieves and murderers; takes bribes, and is very corrupt.

Salim Effendi, Bash Mustantik at Stamboul:—
Late Public Prosecutor, Konieh, where he had a very good reputation; is well acquainted with the laws.

Raef Effendi:—
Now a member of the Government. Was Governor of Beyrout for three and a-half years; he gave great satisfaction, and was liked by the inhabitants.

Ismail Bey:—
An Albanian in exile at Kutaya; was President of Danube Commission, and an Under-Secretary in the Foreign Office under Midhat Pasha. Is a good, able man, and was much esteemed by the foreign members of the Commission.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

November 8, 1880.

No. 192.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 558.) *Pera, November* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a memorandum of Colonel Wilson on the question of whether it would be wise to press for a Commission to examine the charges brought against Mehemet Ali, of Sivas.

Under existing circumstances, I do not believe the Commission would be granted, and I have therefore decided not to ask for it unless your Lordship should be of a different opinion.

If a different Prime Minister were in power, and if a disposition existed to be friendly to England, and to secure her good-will, an excellent opportunity would be afforded by this Sivas case to make an example in the provinces; but under present circumstances, I do not wish to multiply the occasions on which wishes expressed by this Embassy are disregarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 192.

Memorandum on a proposed Commission of Inquiry into the Charges brought by the Armenians against Mehemet Ali, of Sivas.

THE Gregorian Armenian Bishop of Sivas states that the complaints against Mehemet Ali forwarded with Lieutenant Chermside's despatch No. 19 of the 28th August

last have not been brought before the authorities, as the complainants have no confidence in the Government. He adds, however, that if a Commission of impartial persons, if possible foreigners, were appointed to investigate the cases, the Armenians would then, and then only, be able and ready to supply detailed information and substantiate their charges.

There are twenty-seven charges, and of these ten at least affect the Government. It would, therefore, be necessary, as Lieutenant Chermside points out, to institute a searching inquiry by persons beyond the reach of local influence in order to arrive at the truth.

The following remarks on the proposed Commission of Inquiry are submitted for consideration:—

1. Can the Porte be persuaded to appoint a Special Commission of disinterested persons to investigate the charges against Mehemet Ali? If a demand be made for a Commission, and it be not conceded, the Christians at Sivas will suffer when Mehemet Ali hears of the matter from his friends at Constantinople.

2. The Commissioners should be properly paid, and sent from Constantinople or some vilayet other than Sivas. Will the Porte pay *bond fide* salaries and travelling expenses? If this be not done, the Commissioners will have to support themselves at Sivas by well-known means, and so fall under local influences.

3. It is doubtful whether the Armenians will come forward and give evidence if there be not one European on the Commission, or if Her Majesty's Consul at Sivas be not authorized to give protection to witnesses. Would the Porte consent to the appointment of a European? or would Her Majesty's Consul be fully supported in any steps he might take to protect intimidated witnesses?

4. Mehemet Ali has always wished to pose as the leader of the fanatical Moslem party which is opposed to the growing influence of the Christians. At present he is greatly disliked by many of the best Moslem families at Sivas, who despise him on account of his low origin, and resent the manner in which he uses his power. If the investigation were mismanaged and the question made a purely Armenian one, Mehemet Ali would obtain the position he covets, and his co-religionists would rally round him.

5. The case has been complicated by the release from prison, since Abédine Pasha left Sivas, of many brigands and others who are Mehemet Ali's friends or tools. These men are quite unscrupulous, and would probably be employed by Mehemet Ali to terrorize witnesses, unless the Commissioners had special executive powers enabling them to deal with all such persons in a summary manner.

6. The Vali, Ismail Hakki Pasha, has evidently become a partizan of Mehemet Ali's, and he would use all his influence to screen him.

7. Should the charges against Mehemet Ali be proved, would the Commissioners have power to punish him without reference to Constantinople? or would Her Majesty's Government be prepared to insist on his punishment? If Mehemet Ali, having been found guilty, be not punished, the state of affairs at Sivas will be worse than it is at present.

8. The prosecution of Mehemet Ali will be a great event in the provinces; if impartial Commissioners are appointed, and Her Majesty's Government are prepared to press the matter energetically, I believe a conviction can be obtained, and will produce a very beneficial effect. If, on the other hand, the proceedings be allowed to languish, and no visible result follow the appointment of a Commission, the effect will be very bad and prejudicial to the interests of the Christian community.

It may be remarked that Mehemet Ali's power is entirely dependent on the will of the Vali for the time being. For the last ten or twelve years, with the exception of Abédine Pasha's short tenure of office, Mehemet Ali has virtually governed the vilayet, but this has been entirely the fault of the Valis, who have either been too lazy to assume the government, or have found it pecuniarily convenient to leave the conduct of affairs in Mehemet Ali's hands.

Lieutenant Chermside, who will pass through Constantinople on his way to Aidin, will be able to supply some additional particulars with respect to the present state of feeling at Sivas in regard to Mehemet Ali.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

November 3, 1880.

No. 193.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received November 19, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Trebizond, November 10, 1880, 2·15 P.M.*

TURKISH wooden frigate "Mouhbirsurfi," from Constantinople, departed last night to embark Lazis emigrating from Batoum.

No. 194.

C. *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 23.)*

(No. 580.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 16, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose two despatches from Captain Clayton, one describing some agitation in Armenia, the other embodying complaints by the Nestorians and also containing some very interesting information as to the grouping of communes according to population in some of the districts of the Vilayet of Van.

I also inclose the copy of a telegram from Captain Clayton (which, however, has arrived in an imperfect form) stating that Russian Agents are alleged to be in some parts of Armenia.

Your Lordship will have observed other references to the personal feelings of the Armenians in other despatches from our Consular Agents lately received.

Colonel Wilson has started on the route described by me to your Lordship in my despatch No. 491 of the 21st ultimo. He will come into contact with the population of some important districts, and before he left he asked me what language he should hold when questions would be put to him, as would certainly be the case, with regard to those reforms, the report of which seems to have penetrated throughout Asia Minor, but of the realization of which the people remain absolutely without proof. He presumed he must recommend patience, as he had done hitherto, but he did not conceal his opinion that such language could not be held much longer with any advantage or effect.

The agitation, of which the symptoms are being reported by our Consular Agents, the instructions which must from time to time be given to Her Majesty's Representatives in the provinces inhabited by Armenians, the dangers and the discredit of a prolongation of the present state of things, make it imperative for me to urge on Her Majesty's Government that whatever difficulties may interpose in the solution of the Montenegrin and Greek questions, the Porte should not be allowed to think that the Powers have become silent or indifferent as to Asiatic reforms. The Porte was called on to fulfil her obligations in this respect in the identic note sent in by the Representatives of the Great Powers on the 11th June. The Porte replied to the part of the note relating to the reforms in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians on the 5th July, and stated what reforms the Ottoman Government proposed to introduce.

The utter inadequacy of these proposals was explained to the Porte in a collective note on the 7th September. Since then no steps have been taken to follow up the subject. The Porte in its aggressive note of the 3rd October, which professed to deal with all the questions still pending under the Treaty of Berlin, stated what it was prepared to do as regards reforms in Asia Minor, but without reference either to its own proposals made in its note of the 5th July, or to the criticisms of the Great Powers upon them.

In fact, the last note of the Representatives of the Great Powers on the Treaty obligations of the Porte as to the provinces inhabited by Armenians has remained unanswered. In fact, it has not only not been answered, but in the next communication of the Porte on the subject of the reforms it is completely ignored.

The note of the Porte, dated the 3rd October, has now been six weeks in the hands of the Powers, but no protest has been made to the course of the Porte as regards this Armenian question, nor has any notice been taken either of their action or inaction. The inevitable effect on the mind of the public must be that the Powers are not disposed to press their previous views, and that the Turkish Government may proceed to the solution of the question in the mode they think best.

I am aware that among some of the Great Powers the view has prevailed that the Montenegrin question must be first brought to a solution before other questions were pressed, but this view, as a not unnatural consequence of the long delays which have exhausted the patience of Europe, appears to have developed into the feeling that

even when the Montenegrin question is settled, instead of the time being come for urging the fulfilment of other engagements, respite from pressure should be allowed to the Porte.

I cannot too strongly express to your Lordship my profound conviction of the dangers of such a course, and if I do not dilate upon them, it is because I know that Her Majesty's Government, through the able reports of our Consular Agents in Anatolia and Kurdistan, are thoroughly acquainted with the prevailing state of things. Other Powers may not have equal knowledge, or having equal knowledge, may be more indifferent to the events which may ensue from the course of action which they prefer. But it is impossible to deny that the Armenians cannot be expected to have patience much longer, and that the misgovernment and oppression under which they suffer may lead them, when they see that nothing is to be hoped for from the Powers, into acts of rebellion, or at all events into preparations for a rising, of which the consequences may be terrible scenes between the Armenians and the Kurds, and a repetition of horrors which occurred in Bulgaria and elsewhere.

Your Lordship is aware from my despatches that I have never lost an opportunity to warn the Turkish authorities as to what was to be expected if they did not more effectually control the Kurds. They now see the consequences of their neglect. I have warned them now as to symptoms of agitation in Armenia, and I have urged them, at least pending the solution of the reform question, to send their best and most trusted men to govern the vilayets inhabited by Armenians. I have, personally and confidentially, even named men to them in whom I understand the Armenians would have confidence. But while all the Powers are silent as to the Armenians, I cannot expect to produce much effect, and precisely as in European Turkey the Ottoman authorities will take no steps which would offend the Albanians, so in Asia Minor it is hopeless to expect that they will do anything which might offend the Kurds.

In view of the position such as I have described it, I venture to submit to your Lordship whether the time has not come when the other Powers, Signatories to the Treaty of Berlin, should be again summoned to unite with Her Majesty's Government for a combined effort to ameliorate the state of things in Asia.

If they refuse, or give only lukewarm support, the responsibility will not lie with Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 194.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 34. Political. Confidential.)

Sir, *Van, October 12, 1880.*

I HAVE received information that the Armenians in Tiflis, believing that the condition of Turkish Armenia is getting worse, and seeing no signs of reform, have become excited, and are organizing Societies to procure arms, and engaging agents to distribute these arms among the Turkish Armenians, and stir them up to revolt. I need not point out the dangers which may follow on such action at the present time for the Armenians themselves, for the Turkish Empire and for the aims and desires of Europe.

There is no doubt that the condition of Armenia is attracting a good deal of attention in Russia. The "Golos" newspaper has correspondents in all the principal towns in this part of the country, and is full of correspondence about the state of the country, and especially about the condition of the Christians.

I may mention that Major Kamsarngan, the Russian Vice-Consul here, himself an Armenian by extraction, is now making a tour far beyond the limits of his jurisdiction, through Bitlis, Serl, Diarbekir, Kharput, Erzinjan, Erzeroum, &c. I am not aware of the object of this tour, but the Armenians believe that it has some political object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 194.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 33. Political.)
Van, October 12, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received a letter from Mar Shimoun, Patriarch of the Nestorians, in which he complains very much of the conduct of the Government. He says that at different times during the past winter and spring the Local Government took supplies of various sorts from the peasantry, and gave vouchers which were to be reckoned against the next taxes that were to be collected. Now, however, officials are going round collecting taxes without paying any regard to the vouchers in the hands of the people. Other supplies of corn were obtained on promise of repayment when the tithes came in, but now when repayment is asked for the Local Government refers the petitioners to Van, and the Van Government back to the local authorities, and between the two no repayment can be obtained. To pay the present demands the villagers have to borrow on the terms of repaying three times the amount borrowed. Mar Shimoun also says that the condition of the people as regards provisions will be very bad again this winter, even worse than last year, as the coldness of the season has spoiled many of the crops, and the people have no sheep, cattle, or other goods left wherewith to purchase supplies elsewhere. Emigration to Russia and Persia is beginning largely according to him, and I have had personal evidence of the truth of this, as several Nestorian families have come to me lately for assistance on their way from their own land elsewhere.

The Vali of Van has been making a tour through some of the districts of the vilayet to organize the new communes, and is expected back here this evening. I have not as yet heard how he has organized the communes in the districts he has visited, but an Armenian who, with a Turk, was sent to arrange the communes in Sheddakh and Nurduz, called on me two days ago and told me what his mission had done. They formed five communes in Shaddakh and three in Nurduz. Over two communes in Sheddakh and one in Nurduz they placed Christian Mudirs. The names of the communes and their population are given thus:—

Shaddakh.

Commune.	Number of Villages.	Christians.	Kurds.	Mudir.
1. Sortk	15	1,456	885	Christian.
2. Kulpik	8	1,703	315	Ditto.
3. Kukhan	16	357	2,009	Kurd.
4. Berkhol	15	326	2,100	Ditto.
5. Yezdinan (Ashiret)	30 to 40	91	2,196	Ditto.
Total	..	3,933	7,505	

Nurduz.

Commune.	Villages.	Armenians.	Nestorians.	Kurds.	Mudir.
1. Gowan	21	973	276	745	Christian.
2. Chilian	23	..	28	1,081	Kurd.
3. Not yet settled on account of dispute.					

My informant said that the distribution was fairly carried out (except in the third commune of Nurduz) according to the basis of population taken, but claimed that the Armenians were very much under-estimated, and should have had at least three Christian Mudirs in Shaddakh. He explained the discrepancy between the Turkish and Armenian statistics in this way. The calculation of population is made by the Turks on an uniform reckoning of seven persons per house. In the case of the Kurds this estimate is not very far out, as only one family inhabits a house, but in the case of the Armenians all the brothers of a family with their families live in the same house, so that a house often contains from twenty to fifty souls. This explanation is probably true. I have myself seen fifty persons—men, women and children—living in an Armenian house in which I stopped on one of my journeys, being the families of six brothers.

From all sides reports come in of robberies on the part of the Kurds, and the Government appears to have given up all attempts to prevent or punish them. I received yesterday a paper from Shaddakh, giving details of the robberies committed there in two months. Eighteen cases were detailed in which the Kurds had carried off 673 sheep, 203 chaps of corn (a chap equals 2 Constantinople kilés) twelve oxen, and seven asses.

Also some of the persons who were robbed on the Khotour road, as mentioned in my last despatch No. 32, Political, of the 5th October, 1880, came to me saying that nothing had been done for them. A Kurd had been arrested and brought here, but after two days was released again. Yet the perpetrators were well known. I mentioned the matter to Samih Pasha, who said it was the affair of the Courts, and neither he nor the Vali could interfere.

Altogether, the condition of the country is very unsatisfactory, and cannot be improved until the financial position is somehow ameliorated, and until persons are placed in authority who have a real desire to see reforms carried out. At present the want of money is so great that everything is postponed to the effort to scrape together a trifle to satisfy the most pressing local needs and send to Constantinople. To do this the people are pressed to the utmost for taxes. The security of the country and the administration of justice are neglected, and supplies and transport are seized by force without payment. The result is that a good deal of the trade of the country is paralyzed, for the possessors of baggage animals hesitate to bring their beasts within reach of the authorities lest they should be seized. Again, the influential families and corrupt officials have no desire to see the present state of things altered, which would diminish the gains they get from Moslems and Christians alike, and there is, besides, the jealousy and hatred of the Christians, aggravated at present because they are thought to be the causes of the present difficulties of the Turkish Empire, which render all Moslems hostile to any change which may elevate the position of the Christians, and endanger, as they think, the Ottoman supremacy.

The affair of Sheikh Obeydullah and the Kurds is adding at present to the embarrassment of the Government here. The latest news that has come to hand is that the Sheikh's sons have taken Sehino and Souk Bulak, in Persian territory. I have also received a letter from Bashkala stating that the Sheikh has sent a Mollah to the various Sheikhs and Chiefs in Hakkiari, directing them to collect their men and come to him for orders. I am given to understand that several battalions are being directed here from Mush and Erzinjan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 194.

Captain Clayton to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.)
Van, November 22, 1880.

LE Scheik de Diverler a placé le siège devant Ourmia. Informed that Russian emissaries are busy among Armenians. [Group wrong] are going about villages taking down nationality and number. [Two groups wrong] from [one group wrong] is near, and themselves will soon return in different clothes.

No. 195.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 714.)
Foreign Office, November 26, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 558 of the 12th instant, and I have to state to your Excellency that, under the circumstances mentioned in your despatch, Her Majesty's Government approve of your not asking for a Commission to inquire into the charges brought by the Armenians against Mehemet Ali, of Sivas.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 196.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 591.)
Constantinople, November 21, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 201 of the 3rd August last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Bennet reporting that the Christian inhabitants of Azemli have been re-established in their village.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 9. Political.)
Adana, November 10, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 20th July, 1880, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Hadji Akif Effendi, the Acting Vali of Adana, informed me yesterday that the Circassians had been turned out of Azemli about thirty-five days ago, and the Christians re-established in their old home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 197.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 595.)
Constantinople, November 22, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Lieutenant Chermside, giving particulars respecting a disturbance which recently took place at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 197.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 30.)
Sivas, November 4, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a disturbance occurred at Sivas on Saturday, the 23rd October, and to forward you the following information thereanent:—

An Armenian merchant travelling to the wedding of his daughter, with money in his possession (150 liras, I hear), was murdered, and suspicion attached to his travelling companions; his corpse was brought here and taken to the Government konak. Two of his relations presented a petition to the Vali; the latter assures me he informed them he had given all necessary orders; however, his not coming out to see the corpse appears to have excited a good deal of ill-feeling. I may inform your Excellency that I have come across the same in the East before, namely, the odium incurred by an unwillingness in a Governor to make a futile inspection of a corpse and address the concomitant crowd. The corpse was thence taken to the principal Armenian church and left there; I was not at Sivas, but my servant informs me it was brought to the Consulate and I was called for. This was towards evening. Some Armenians, it is said, the dead man's relatives, proceeded to the Vali's house followed by a crowd which gradually increased; the Vali came out and spoke to them and tried to persuade them to disperse. He was, however, grossly abused, reproached with the want of security for life and property, and finally stones thrown at his house. The crowd by degrees became greater, and reached numbers variously estimated at from 300 to 2,000. Stones were thrown in large numbers, and the Vali's windows were broken. M. Ghynossian, an Armenian notable living near, came and stood by the Vali and tried to persuade the crowd to disperse; he advised the Vali to retire into his house,

which he did. After two hours the excitement subsided, a detachment of soldiers came up, and the streets were patrolled. The Vali, Hakki Pasha, appears to have behaved with great moderation and prudence, and what otherwise might have proved the beginning of serious trouble between Moslems and Christians was averted. He prevented, as far as lay in his power, the Moslems from attacking the Christians, and nothing of the sort occurred. The officer commanding the detachment brought up the soldiers on his own responsibility, the Vali informs me. It was night, and no arrests were made.

Unfortunately the Vali's subsequent conduct does not appear equally commendable. Although he could identify many of the rioters, and told me he has their names, no arrests have been made, and from conversation with him I can have no doubt of his wishing to give political significance to the affair. He seems to wish to implicate the Armenian and some of the leading notables. I shall be very surprised if anything comes out in evidence to support this view.

The Bishop was himself reproached the next day publicly by the Armenians for not maintaining their interests. As this complaint had come before me some weeks before, a complaint I could not entertain or endorse, I do not concur with the Vali in thinking this a got-up thing. I look on the disturbance as a spontaneous ebullition of feeling, the causes of which are probably these: (1) the circumstances of the murder; (2) the unpopularity of the Vali, both on account of his conduct in the matter of the elections, and the contrast of his feeble administration with that of Abédine Pasha and other of his predecessors; (3) the recent murders and robberies of Armenians, which, from the number of refugees and other causes, have lately undoubtedly been quite abnormal for this district; (4) the excited state of feeling political events, emissaries, and press writing have produced among the Armenians.

The facts are that an unarmed mob, which dispersed without the assistance of the soldiery after two hours, abused the Vali and broke his windows; no blood was shed.

I do not share in the view that the Bishop, a shrewd, able man, with thirty years experience of Sivas, would encourage such a disgraceful and useless riot.

I have urged strongly on the Vali the advisability of proceeding against some of the known or suspected rioters at once, as this is the surest way of disarming the Moslem spirit of dissatisfaction at the outrage and of vindicating the dignity of the Government. I have pointed out very strongly to his Excellency the expediency, whatever his private opinion may be, of treating the matter as one of a class of disturbance very common in Turkey, and the inconvenience to the Porte at the present crisis of vague charges and insinuations that can only breed ill-will between Moslem and Christian; adding that even if the mob were incited as he appears to think, seeing that the matter was so simply settled, the advantage of proving that the rioters had been told to remonstrate with him would be a very doubtful one, and one that, considering the disgraceful state of the administration, might eventually cause the Porte more embarrassment than satisfaction. Similar disturbances, as I can testify from personal experience, are so very common in Turkey that I see nothing in this occurrence to render advisable any delay in complying with Colonel Wilson's telegram to come to Constantinople. The demonstration was purely or principally a protest against Hakki Pasha personally, and the leading Moslems of my acquaintance confirm this, and assure me they do not believe the principal Armenians in any way connected with the disturbance, or that it has any political significance. The leading Armenians all deplore such a senseless and discreditable outrage. The Vali naturally is unwilling to look at the matter in this light, but will, I trust, from my conversation with him, treat it as it deserves, and attempt to bring the responsibility home to the actual rioters and punish them, as it is from the Moslem feeling alone, in view of such an outrage not being resented by the Government, that there is anything to fear.

The event, now twelve days old, has been followed by perfect quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 198.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 598.) *Constantinople, November* 22, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Biliotti, stating that orders have been sent to the Courts of Justice in the Vilayet of Trebizond not to release persons arrested for a breach of the public peace without the consent of the Vali, the Porte thus supporting his Excellency's measures for the maintenance of order in the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 198.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 54.) *Trebizond, November* 12, 1880.
Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch to me of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that a few days since the Government of this province received from the Porte a telegram to the following purport:—

"Having been informed that perturbators of the public peace who are apprehended by the administrative authorities are released by the Courts of Justice, the latter are ordered to co-operate with the Vali, and not to set at liberty any of the individuals in question without his previous sanction."

This telegram being identical in its tenour, and almost in its wording, to the communication which your Excellency intended to make to the Porte, and coinciding with the presumable epoch at which the communication was likely to take place, I am induced to believe that this satisfactory result is solely due to the support which your Excellency has kindly given to the Governor-General of this vilayet in the present circumstance.

I am sanguine that the measure adopted will greatly facilitate the work which Sirri Pasha is pursuing with energy and unremittingness for ameliorating the condition of this province. But I do not expect that much progress will be made in this direction before the populations are convinced of the decision of the Porte to deal severely with the perturbators of the public peace. It is only when full confidence is established that distinct charges will be brought against the individuals in question, who now are only vaguely accused by the public, no one daring to come forward with private claims from fear of retaliation on their part in the event of their not meeting with deserved punishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 199.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 611.) *Constantinople, November* 26, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Captain Clayton, No. 36, Political, relating to the Armenian question.

Your Lordship will observe that a "vague expectation that some important events are shortly about to take place" is mentioned by Captain Clayton. I have heard confirmatory evidence of this state of feeling even from some of the more moderate Armenians in Constantinople.

I should add that inquiries have been made of me by Armenians as to the present phase of the negotiations, and as to whether there was any chance of reforms being really executed. The tone of the European press, the language of many diplomatists, but, above all, the attitude taken up by the Turks, are tending to convince the Armenians that, as Captain Clayton says in his despatch, "the reforms are ever receding into the dim background of the future."

Meanwhile, the events in Kurdistan have an important and unsatisfactory bearing

on the question. The belief is very prevalent that the Kurds have been armed with the connivance, if not by the direct action, of Turkish authorities, in view of possible Armenian contingencies.

Should the Kurds strengthen their position as a result of the present struggle, which, however, does not seem probable, the Armenians are likely to suffer in proportion.

Again, if the Persians should eventually have to invoke the assistance of the Russians, and Russia thus acquire a fresh *locus standi* as an agent for putting down the Kurds, the Armenians on the borders will, in the present absence of all substantial hopes of reforms, not unnaturally turn to her for that assistance over the borders which the demoralization and anarchy following on the defeat and dispersion of the tribes may render more than ever necessary, unless the Turkish authorities should assume an attitude very different from what they have displayed hitherto.

I should add that an Armenian gentleman remarked to me that the fact that the Persian troops had been able to give a good account of the great number of Kurds who had invaded Persia, though the troops were by no means of a very high order, showed that the Armenians were justified in their assertion that the Kurds were not really formidable, and could be easily controlled by the Turks, if the latter were determined to act with vigour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 36. Political. Confidential.) *Van, October* 19, 1880.
Sir,

IN connection with the matters alluded to in my despatch No. 34, Political, Confidential, of the 12th instant, I have to remark that among the Armenians in Van at the present time there prevails an atmosphere of vague expectation that some important events are shortly about to take place, but no one seems to know exactly what is to be expected. Rumours fly about such as that Van is to be handed over to the Russians, or that a Russian army of occupation may be expected, and yesterday I heard that some mysterious Russians had been in the town last week, but had now departed no one knows whither. I have not traced this report to any trustworthy source, and do not attach much importance to the vague rumours that fly about, but think it right to mention them as showing the sort of unsettled state of spirit existing among the Armenians at the present time. It is certain, I think, that any movement on the part of Russia would be welcomed with enthusiasm by most of the Armenians tired of waiting for reforms that ever seem to recede into the dim background of the future, though the more enlightened would prefer to see their deliverance from their present condition come from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 200.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 615.) *Constantinople, November* 20, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, in which he states that many complaints reach him of the conduct of the troops now on the march, on account of the present Kurdish troubles.

The inhabitants of Göllu, on the south of Lake Van, are much dissatisfied with the Mudir, an Armenian recently appointed by the Vali.

He states that these causes and the Kurdish robberies have produced an amount of excitement among the Christians which he has done his best to calm, but he fears with little effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 38. Political.)

Van, October 26, 1880.

Sir,

A GREAT many complaints reach me about the conduct of the troops on the march. There is a considerable movement going on at present on account of the Kurdish troubles, and when they stop at villages they beat the villagers, take all sorts of provisions and other articles from them without payment, and turn them out of their houses. I have spoken to Samih Pasha about this conduct of the troops, and he has promised that he will give strict orders that the villagers on the roads shall not be wronged, and that the troops shall take provisions with them, so as not to have to get them from the villages. I hope an improvement will ensue.

Yesterday, two of the principal men of Göllu, on the south shore of the Lake of Van, were brought to me, saying that they wished to protest against the Mudir the Vali had appointed to their commune during his recent tour. The Mudir is an Armenian, but generally hated, and having previously been Reis of Göllu, had been deposed by the people, who had elected another man. The complainants said that they had protested to the Vali against the appointment at the time, but without avail. The Mudir began his career as Mudir by ordering the people to go to the mountains to cut wood for the Government gratuitously, singling out for this work those against whom he had a grudge, but sparing his own relations and friends. The people refused to obey, whereupon he sent to the Kaïmakam of the caza for zaptiehs, and ordered them to beat certain of the recusants. Thereupon a riot ensued, on account of which some of the villagers are now in prison.

The men said that after this promised reform their position was worse than before, for formerly they could choose their own Reis, but now they had a Mudir put over them against their will.

I spoke to the Vali about the matter to-day, saying that the object of the new system was to satisfy the people, and therefore it was most undesirable that a thoroughly unpopular man should be put in such an office. He said that the man had done good service to the Government during the war; that though some people disliked him, perhaps others liked him; but, finally, that he would examine into the matter, and, if necessary, remove him. We shall see what eventually happens, but the incident shows how little guarantee there is in the scheme of Abédine Pasha for a really improved condition of the people.

There is a great deal of excitement among the Christians on account of affairs such as this, on account of the Kurdish robberies and the want of any attempt to restrain them, and on account of the conduct of the troops, and a great deal of wild talk is indulged in. I endeavour to calm them and to induce them to be patient a little longer, and not to say or do foolish things, as there is a hope of a speedy commencement of improvement, but I am afraid my words produce but little effect. They are excited, and act and speak often very unwisely. I sincerely hope some real commencement of reform may take place soon, so as to quiet the spirits of the Christians; but the Moslems, on their side, are irritated, and the introduction of a change raising the status of the Christians will meet with great opposition, even if it does not lead to disturbances. How this is to be guarded against requires consideration.

There are at present a great many refugees passing through Van from Hakkiari. They come to me nearly every day for assistance, in companies of from twenty to sixty, men, women, and children. They say that their harvest was insufficient, the millet being spoiled by cold, and the Kurds have carried away the little there was, so they have left their homes, and are going to Arjesh or other places where they think there is plenty. I give them a little aid from the funds at my disposal to help them on their way, but what will eventually become of them I really do not know.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 201.

Memorandum by Major Trotter on the different Races inhabiting the Consular District of Kurdistan, considered chiefly with reference to the question of Reform.

IN a country where religion, rather than nationality, divides the population into more or less hostile communities, it seems natural to make the first subdivision into:—

1. Christians.
2. Mahommedans.

No really satisfactory or trustworthy statistics of population exist, but a careful examination of the available data* has resulted in the following estimate of the population in the Kurdistan Consular district, which I believe to be not far from the truth:—

Christians, 700,000; Moslems, 1,750,000; *i.e.*, the Christians form about two-sevenths of the total population. But both of these classes are again subdivided into many others, which may be classified either according to race or to religion.

In the annexed Table (A)† I have endeavoured to show at a glance the different subdivisions of race, with the approximate numbers belonging to each, the religions practised, and the languages spoken.

The numbers allotted to the different subdivisions of Moslems can only be regarded as a very rough estimate, made with a view to give a general idea of the relative numbers; the figures allotted to the Christian sects are probably a nearer approximation to the truth.

The numerous different races, creeds, and languages that combine to make up the population of Armeno-Kurdistan are mixed up in such almost inextricable confusion that it is a difficult matter to describe them, or to know where to begin or how to end.

I propose considering them according to the order of numerical preponderance.

1.—*The Kurds.*

Little is known of the early history or origin of the Kurds; they are believed to be the Carduchi of Xenophon. The famous Saladin, the hero of the Crusades, is said to have been a Kurdish Chief. The modern Kurds first came under Ottoman rule A.D. 1514, as a result of the successful campaign undertaken by Sultan Selim I against Shah Ismail of Persia. The Provinces of Diarbekir and Kurdistan,‡ through which he had marched to the conquest of Ismail, were subdued by Selim, and were handed over by that Monarch to the care of Edrisi the historian, himself a Kurd of Bitlis, to be organized and administered by him. The work was performed with justice and skill. Edrisi forced a great part of the nomad Kurds, "who then, as now, preyed to a great extent upon the peaceable agricultural population and villages," to emigrate to the rich pastoral country in the neighbourhood of Erzeroum and Erivan. The Kurds thus transported were at the same time assured perpetual immunity from taxation conditionally on their acting as a militia for the protection of the Turkish frontier.

The advances of Russia in the present century, and the wars between that country, Persia, and Turkey, have left a large portion of the territory thus colonized in the hands of Russia and Persia, as well as of Turkey.

In the reign of subsequent Monarchs further immigrations from the south appear to have taken place, and we now find Kurds scattered nearly all over the country, their northern limit being, roughly speaking, a line from Kars to Erzeroum, extended on to Divriki. It is said that, with the exception of the Kurds of Hakkiari, and the tribe of Mamakanlee,§ all the Kurds inhabiting the Erzeroum and Van districts originally came from the neighbourhood of Diarbekir.

Little is known of the history of the Kurds from the time of Edrisi up to

* Mr. Consul Taylor, a most careful and pain-taking observer, after a residence of several years in the country, much of which was spent in travel, estimated the Mahommedan population of the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Diarbekir, and Kharput (including the territory recently annexed by Russia) at 1,491,000 souls, as compared with a Christian population of 649,500. This was in 1869. The latest official statistics, after allowing for the territory ceded to Russia, give 1,487,438 Moslems, against 506,202 non-Moslems. Believing both communities to be under-estimated in the official records, I should myself be inclined to roughly estimate the Moslem population at 1,750,000, as against 700,000 Christians, *i.e.*, 5:2.

† Not received at the Foreign Office.

‡ The Province of Kurdistan lay to the east of Diarbekir.

§ The Mamakanlee Kurds are said to be descended from the Armenian Manigeanians.

comparatively modern days, but they appear to have shaken themselves tolerably free from the control of the Turkish Government; in 1834 the Porte appears to have formed the idea of reducing them to subjection. At that time Bagdad was completely cut off from direct communication with Constantinople and from all intercourse with the rest of the Empire. With the exception of some large towns in the interior, and the lands in a small circuit round them, and of some extensive wooded and mountainous tracts unfit for pasturage near the coast of the Black Sea, the country from Angora to the confines of Persia and Arabia was in the almost sole possession of the Kurds. Diarbekir, once surrounded by a plain swarming with villages and rich in produce, then stood in the midst of a desert. The Derch Beys of the interior, who had formerly exercised a certain control over the Kurds, had been previously removed.

In 1834 the famous Reshid Mehemed Pasha was commissioned by the Porte to pacify the country. Commencing from Sivas, and proceeding by Kharput to Diarbekir, with an army of 20,000 men, he soon succeeded in restoring order, and from that time to the present the Kurds have been more less under subjection, although even to this day the great body of nomad Kurds pay no tax but the sheep tax, and are practically exempt from military service on condition of serving as irregulars during war.

The Kurds proper, as at present found within the limits of the Consulate, probably number not much less than 1,000,000 souls.* They may be divided into several classes, according to their religion, their language, and their modes of life.

Thus they may be (1) Sunni or Alivi (orthodox or unorthodox); (2) Kurmanji or Zaza; (3) sedentary or nomad; (4) agricultural or pastoral; (5) tribal or non-tribal.

Kurmanji and Zaza.†

The great majority of the Kurds are Kurmanji, and speak the so-called Kurmanji or Kirdasi language, while the remainder speak the Zaza dialect. Both these Kurdish dialects have a very strong affinity to Persian, the Zaza being most nearly allied to it. The Zazas form a tolerably compact body occupying the mountainous country south of Erzinjan and south-west of Erzeroum; a straight line drawn from Erzeroum to Diarbekir would, roughly speaking, form the eastern, while the Euphrates forms the western boundary; and a line drawn from Haini to Tchermuk forms the southern boundary. The Zaza-speaking Kurds have been estimated at as high a figure as 180,000, but my own impression is that 100,000 would be nearer the truth.

There is so much difference between the languages that a man speaking Kurmanji only would not be able to make himself understood in the Zaza country, and *vice versâ*.

The Kurdish language is, I believe, never written; when correspondence is necessary Persian is employed; the Koran is, of course, in Arabic; there is no Kurdish literature, and the only Kurdish history of which I have heard is written in Persian.

Sunnis and Alivis.

The Sunni form of Mahommedanism is, as is well known, the orthodox religion—the religion of the State; and it is the religion professed by the great majority of the Kurds. Generally speaking, the Kurmanji-speaking Kurds are Sunnis, whereas the Zazas are believers in Ali. There is, however, a strip of Zaza country, viz., that lying at the south of the tract I have before described, where the inhabitants, although Zaza, profess the Sunni faith, and again in Kemach and other places to the west of the Zaza country are found Alivis or Kizilbash (as they are somewhat contemptuously called by their Turkish neighbours) who speak Kurmanji.

The Kurdish Sunnis nearly all belong to the Shaafi‡ sect, of whom the now famous Sheikh Obeidullah is the spiritual head. The Persian Kurds mostly belong to the same sect, and are therefore devoted followers of the Sheikh, who, as a matter of course, is bitterly hostile to the Shiah Government of Persia. This Sheikh has almost unbounded influence in Turkish Kurdistan from Bayazid down to the Suleimaniyeh country, an influence which extends across the Persian border.

The religion of the Kizilbash is a *mélange* of the Shiah or Persian form of

* The total Kurdish population of Turkey and Persia has been estimated at from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000.

† Probably derived from "zozan," a Persian word for "mountain."

‡ One of the four sub-divisions into which orthodox Mahommedans are divided.

Mahommedanism, mixed up with Paganism and a sprinkling of Christian forms of worship. Their country includes the Deyrsim, an extremely mountainous and inaccessible district south of Erzinjan, with a population of about 60,000 souls, of whom some 3,000 are Christian Armenians, and all the rest Kizilbash. This country has never yet been thoroughly subdued by the Turkish Government, and the presence of a large body of troops in the neighbourhood is always necessary to maintain order.

But besides the Kizilbash Kurds, there are to the west of the Zaza district large numbers of Kizilbash Turks and Turkomans professing almost exactly the same religion as the Deyrsim Kurds, but speaking the Turkish language. For instance, in the Arghawon Nahié of the Arabkir district the inhabitants, some 12,000 in number, are said to be all Kizilbash, mostly speaking Turkish, although some few villages contain Kurds. In the Arabkir Nahié, which contains a Mahommedan population of nearly equal amount, two-thirds are Sunni Turks and the rest Kizilbash. In Egin, one-fourth of the villages are said to be Kizilbash. In the Sandjak of Malátia there are great numbers of Kizilbash.

The Kizilbash Turks, as also the Kizilbash Kurds, where found in the plains, which is rarely the case, have an excellent reputation for industry, economy, and energy; but in the wild mountainous country near Aghjah Dagh (in Malatia) and in the Deyrsim, emboldened by their comparatively inaccessible positions, and encouraged by the feebleness of the Government, they have from time immemorial been semi-independent.

The Deyrsim Kurds are chiefly pastoral, but owing probably to the severity of the climate, they live almost always in houses; they go to considerable distances on marauding excursions in the adjacent districts of Arabkir, Egin, &c. Small patches of cultivation are generally found in the vicinity of their villages.

Their country is exceedingly wealthy in minerals and in forests.

These Kizilbash constitutes an important element in the future of the country. The inveterate antagonism always existing between Shiah and Sunni has been made doubly bitter in the present case by the chronic hostility that has for very many years past existed between the robber hordes of the mountains and their would-be Osmanli Lords. This antagonism has brought about a sort of *rapprochement* between the neighbouring Armenians and the Kizilbash Deyrsimli; at least Christians have more than once told me that they can safely penetrate into districts where the life of a Turkish soldier would be unsafe, and that these Kurds would allow Christians to see their women unveiled, a liberty they would never allow to a Turk. On the other hand, in some districts to the west of the Euphrates both Turks and Armenians complained bitterly of the hostile raids and incursions of the Deyrsimlis in search of plunder. Many villages paid a regular annual tribute to some Deyrsim Chief, in return for which they were guaranteed immunity from plunder.

The Deyrsimli Kizilbash, according to Mr. Consul Taylor, one of the very few Europeans who have visited this country, are divided into two portions—the Seyd Hassananlis, occupying the southern and comparatively level district, and the true Deyrsimlis, who inhabit the rocky heights near Erzinjan; the former are an agricultural race, comparatively amenable to authority, and the others are a haughty, pastoral, and determined rebel tribe.

The Deyrsimlis proper he regards as descendants of the original Pagan stock existing there even before Christianity, whilst the Hassananlis, originally from Khorassan, in Persia, emigrated more lately from Aghjah Dagh, in Malatia. There is now no outward difference between them in matter of faith. There is some difference in dialect, the Deyrsimlis mixing many Armenian words with their Kurdish. Their religion is a mixture of Christianity, Islamism, and Paganism. The country abounds in Armenian remains, ruined towns, villages, churches, and convents, often with inscriptions in old Armenian. The original Armenian possessors appear, with very few exceptions, to have been driven out of the country, but I am informed that many of the Kizilbash Christian names are identical with abbreviated Armenian Christian names now in use near Moush and some other Armenian districts.

Many marriage and other religious customs have been borrowed from the Christians.

Sedentary and Nomad. Agricultural and Pastoral.

To the best of my belief, the greater portion of the Kurds are sedentary (locally termed "Yerli"), and I have in the course of my travels certainly come across more Kurdish villages than I have Christian. There are several large districts which

contain exclusively a Kurdish population, while I know of no district exclusively Armenian.

It may be laid down as a general rule that the mountainous pastoral tracts are inhabited by Kurds, whereas the rich, broad valleys (in which the country abounds) are occupied by a mixed population of Christians, Kurds, and Turks. (The Nestorian country, which will be treated of hereafter, is a partial exception to this rule.)

These sedentary Kurds are mostly both agricultural and pastoral; although some villages are purely agricultural. The nomad Kurds are exclusively pastoral.

In agricultural pursuits the Kurds are not on a par with their Christian neighbours. A Kurdish Chief to whom I once pointed out the unfavourable contrast presented by the crops in the vicinity of some Kurdish village as compared with neighbouring Christian ones, replied: "How can it be expected otherwise? The Christians work night and day, whereas our Kurds like to take life quietly." The remark was a true one. The sedentary Kurds, however, as a rule, depend less on their crops than on their flocks and herds, and the chief difference between the sedentary pastoral and the nomads is that the former spend the winter in their villages and the summer in their pastures, generally at a few hours' distance from their villages, where they live in either huts or tents—more often the latter—while the pure nomads, called locally "Kochers," own no villages, but spend the whole year round in tents. Most of the Kocher tribes winter in the northern Mesopotamian plain, south of the Tigris, or in some of the low lands in Persian territory. In the summer they migrate with all their belongings to the mountain pastures of Moush and Hakkiari. It is while on these periodical migrations that some of the wilder spirits often enrich themselves at the expense of their neighbours by plundering in the country through which they pass, or by grazing their cattle on village lands. These journeys also often give rise to serious inter-tribal disputes which are generally attended with bloody results.

The nomad Kurds are, as a rule, far more wealthy than the settled ones; their riches consist exclusively of horses, camels, sheep, cattle, tents, carpets, and arms, &c. They sell wool and sheep to traders, and purchase from the nearest market grain and other necessaries. Their women manufacture excellent carpets. Some of these Kocher tribes are comparatively inoffensive people, others have a widespread reputation of an evil nature. A great deal depends on the character of the hereditary Chief of the tribe. These Chiefs possess an almost unbounded influence over their respective tribes.

The only tax paid by the Kochers is the sheep tax, which is collected in the spring while they are crossing the Tigris on their journey from their winter to their summer pastures. They are practically not subject to conscription, but provide irregular troops for the defence of the country in time of war.

From the nature of their life the sedentary Kurds are necessarily more under Government control than the nomads; but, as may readily be supposed in a country where the system of government is so feeble as it is, these Kurds are found in almost every possible stage, from that of thorough subjection to the Government (as in many of the Diarbekir and Erzeroum villages, where they pay all the regular taxes, and are also drawn for conscription) up to the semi-independent Kurds of the Bohtan, of Modki, and of the Deyrsin, who never pay taxes except at the rare intervals that the Government is able to occupy their country with a military force, and who have never hitherto, except on very rare occasions, supplied soldiers to the army, either regular or irregular. Others there are, such as the Haidernali tribes north of Lake Van, who profess to pay regularly their sheep tax and vergue, and who supply irregular troops in time of war, but where conscription is unknown.

Tribal and Non-tribal.

The greater portion of the Kurds are tribal, i.e., that they belong to some distinctive tribe or "ashireth." These tribes bear a very marked resemblance in many respects to the old Scottish Highland clans, whereas the non-tribal Kurds may, perhaps, be likened to the Lowlanders. In the Suleimanieh country, in the Mosul district, the late Mr. Rich, a very competent observer, who spent nearly a year amongst them, looked upon the non-tribal Kurds as aboriginal stock, and on the tribal Kurds as a distinctive conquering race, and he noticed marked difference of features as well as of dialect and habits between the two classes. The tribal Kurds he declared to be of superior physique and greatly superior intelligence. As far as my own observation goes, the difference between the two races in those parts of Kurdistan that I have visited are not nearly so marked, although I should decidedly look on the tribal Kurds as the superior race.

As with other Kurdish sub-divisions, however, we find them all running the one into the other. There can be no doubt, however, that all the purely nomad Kurds are tribal, as well as the greater part of the sedentary pastoral races.

On the other hand, I believe that most of the purely agricultural, and a good many of the sedentary pastoral Kurds are non-tribal. These go by the local name of "Rayahs," *i.e.*, subject, a term which is also universally applied to the Christian peasant.

It will be seen from the preceding remarks that the somewhat generally received idea that nearly all the Kurds are nomads, and that all Kurds are robbers and would-be murderers, is somewhat wide of the mark. On the contrary, it would appear that the majority of the Kurds are pastoral and sedentary, and that by far the greater portion of both nomads and sedentary Kurds live a pastoral life, and mainly depend on their flocks and herds for subsistence. On the other hand, it is undoubtedly true that in very many districts the Kurds, who live in more or less inaccessible mountain-fastnesses, can, and often do, plunder and maltreat the rayahs of the plains, both Christian and Moslem, too often with the most complete impunity; also that, in many parts, the inter-tribal feuds cause great suffering and loss of life. The Kochers also, in their annual migrations, often do much harm; but the greatest miseries of all are caused by the frontier tribes, such as the Djehlis and the Shekaks, who make raids in Turkish territory, plunder villages of their flocks and herds, and carry off their booty into Persia, where they find a safe refuge amongst men of their own tribe.

It will readily be understood that every variety of character will be found amongst the Kurds, from the haughty semi-independent Chief who careers over the country at the head of a gay and gallant band of horsemen, and who traces his descent through pure blood and well-known names for many generations, and is looked upon by his armed retainers with the greatest respect and veneration, down to the unfortunate rayah, who is crushed down by poverty and oppressed by the authorities, as well as exposed to the destructive inroads of hostile Kurds.

A common Turkish proverb is, "Stupid as a Kurd," but I by no means think them wanting in intelligence. It is true that they are mostly uneducated, and there are very few amongst them who can read or write. The very few educated men I have met amongst them have struck me as remarkably intelligent. The desire for education, however, appears to be penetrating even to them, and I was much astonished a few months ago at seeing in the hands of the Imperial Commissary for Reform at Van a "mazhata," signed by seventeen Kurdish Chiefs, the feudal lords of more than 40,000 of these wild Kurds, begging the Government to introduce schools and education amongst them, and offering to pay any reasonable sum that might be necessary for their maintenance. They also offered in the same document—so averse are they to the tight bonds of military service—to pay a military exemption tax much higher than that paid by Christians, on condition that they should be made perpetually free from military service.

The Kurd is hospitable by nature, and is not, in my opinion, naturally fanatic, although, as is the case with all Mussulmans, he is easily capable of being roused and excited by his temporal and spiritual chiefs to a state of rabid fanaticism. Incidents of the last war prove them to be a cruel and barbarous people when thus excited. On that occasion their feelings were also stimulated by warlike passion and revenge. I believe that forty years ago Kurd and Christian were far better friends than they are now, and that the bitter hostility now so often existing between the races is due in great measure to the action of Turkish officials. Action on the part of any Government which will tend to exalt the Christians at the expense of the Kurds will have the effect of still further increasing this hostile feeling, which I, personally, have always done what I could to diminish by assuring the Kurds, when I had the opportunity, that Her Majesty's Government was as much interested in securing prosperity and good government for them as it was for the Christians.

It is very difficult to obtain even an approximate idea of the relative numbers of nomad and sedentary Kurds, as the Turkish authorities have, as far as I am aware, no reliable statistics about the nomads. While at Van this summer I obtained from Yusuf Pasha a list of the sedentary tribal Kurds in the Van Vilayet, with the number of their tents or houses. The total number given by him amounted to 8,590 houses or tents, which, allowing seven persons to each tent, gives a population of 60,130 tribal Kurds, none of whom were liable to conscription.

The largest tribes were—

1. The Hartushi, 2,130 houses, but scattered about in different districts.

2. The Haideranli Abagai, with 800 tents. This tribe occupies the country north-east of Lake Van.

3. The Haideranli Erdish and Adeljivaz, 1,000 houses, north of Lake Van.
4. The Makuri, 800 tents, on the Persian frontier.
5. The Milan, 450 tents.

And nineteen smaller tribes* varying from 100 to 400 tents.

As the number of Mahommedans in the Van Vilayet, according to the official lists, is about 175,000, allowing, say, 15,000 Turks for the population of the town of Van, we have, roughly speaking, about 160,000 non-tribal Kurds. But the number of the former will have to be reduced by 10,000 who have perished of famine during the past year.

I should add, however, that M. Yaba, many years ago Russian Consul-General at Erzeroum, estimated the tribal Kurds in Hakkiari alone at 150,600. He does not appear, however, to discriminate between tribal Kurds and Rayahs, and, in point of fact, the difference between them is not always clearly marked.

The above official estimate does not include the purely nomad Kurds.

The principal nomad tribes are:—the Herki, said to number about 24,000 souls, who winter sometimes in Persia, sometimes in Mosul, and summer in Gevver; the Hartushi,† 6,000, who spend summer near Julamerg and winter in Mosul. Some of the Shekaks also winter in Persia, while they spend the summer in the Van Province. It is the Persian section of this tribe that has committed such ravages in Bashkalch during the present year.

Further north, again, in the Bayazid Sandjak we have the Jelalee Kurds, who are of mixed Russian, Persian, and Turkish nationality. The late Mr. Consul Taylor wrote more than ten years ago what is equally true now:—

"This mixed nationality of one family and the still unsettled state of the frontier cause interminable disputes between the Governments of Persia and Turkey. The Kurds being equally at home in one country as in the other, cross the border whenever they feel inclined or it suits their purpose, either for business or to evade proper punishment due to crimes committed in one or the other country. All attempts to levy taxes, enforce conscription, and arrest offenders are thwarted by a hasty migration to Persia or Turkey, as the case may be. The military cordon stationed along the line that ought, if efficiently organized, to assist Government in enforcing order and obedience is totally useless for either, while the jealousies and quarrels invariably existing between the civil and military authorities thwart any well-devised action of the former."

In the Erzeroum Vilayet, with the exception of some tribes in the Bayazid Sandjak already alluded to, there are, I believe, no purely nomad tribes, but when we get to the southern portion of my Consular district on the borders of the desert, we find again a number of large tribes who winter in the Mesopotamian plains, and move in summer to the grassy slopes of the mountains to the north. In the extreme west we have the Kiki (1,000 tents), the Milli (1,000 tents), and the Karagechi, three Arab-Kurdish tribes, *i.e.*, Kurdish tribes partially subject to the Arabs, who occupy the strip of country between the pure Arabs of the desert and the Kurds of the mountains. Further east, south of Mardin, the Bedouin Arabs (the Tai, 1,000 tents, and the Shamar) come right up to the foot of the mountains, while along the Tigris valley, east of Diarbekir, we have the Rajkotanli (500 tents), the Penjinarli (1,000 tents), and the Alikandee (500 tents), large tribes who live in winter near the Tigris (in Bisheri), and in the summer months go to Sasun and Moosh (in the Bitlis Vilayet). Further east, near Djezireh, are several other nomad tribes containing from 150 to 800 families.

The total purely nomad Kurdish population probably considerably exceeds 100,000 souls, but with the scant and uncertain information we possess, it is impossible to form an estimate anything approaching the exact truth.

2.—*The Armenians.*

Next in number to the Kurds in the Kurdistan Consulate come the Armenians, the original possessors of the soil; no exact record of their numbers exists, but my own estimate places them at between 600,000 and 700,000 souls.

A peculiar interest attaches to the Armenian race from the extreme antiquity of the Armenian Kingdom, from their early conversion to Christianity, and for the

* Amongst the smaller tribes are those of Gordi, 400 houses, and of Oramar, 350 houses, of whom Sheikh Obeidullah is, I believe, the acknowledged head.

† In addition to the sedentary Hartushi.

wonderful vitality with which they have adhered to the language and religion of their ancestors.

Vahé, the last King of the Hayguian or first Armenian dynasty, was an ally of Darius, King of Persia, and perished B.C. 322, while fighting against Alexander the Great. Armenia then became a Macedonian province, and later on formed a part of the Parthian Kingdom, and it seems doubtful whether it ever subsequently became a really independent kingdom.

The second Armenian dynasty was that of the Arsacide (Arshagoonian), and lasted according to Armenian historians from B.C. 149 to A.D. 428, when the line became extinct. During a great part of this time, however, Armenia was in reality a province of Rome. At the beginning of the fourth century Tiridates was crowned King of Armenia at the Roman capital, and the Kings who followed him held their authority as mere vassals of the Roman Empire. It was during the reign of Tiridates, who was converted to Christianity by St. Gregory the Illuminator, that the Armenians became converted to Christianity.

In A.D. 428, after repeated wars for supremacy between Romans and Persians, Armenia fell to the latter country, and was for 456 years governed by Persian Prefects, during which time it was constantly the theatre of war between Persians and the Byzantine Empire, and between the latter and the Saracens, who ultimately conquered the country.

In the middle of the ninth century the Caliph appointed Ashod, an Armenian, as King of Armenia, and he founded the Pakradounian dynasty, which lasted A.D. 856 to A.D. 1080, when the country was conquered by the Byzantines, and subsequently overrun by Persians, and then by Tartars. A small kingdom was formed in Cilicia, or Lesser Armenia, which was ruled over by the Rupinian dynasty, which lasted till the year 1393, when Leo de Lusignan, the last King of Armenia, died in Paris. It was during the reign of this dynasty that the country was frequently overrun by the Tartars, and the kingdom was finally destroyed by the Sultan of Egypt.

From this date the Armenians have always been condemned to live under the heavy yoke of foreign masters. Even before the death of Leo, the country was devastated by the terrible Tamerlane. Continual civil wars followed, and at last, in A.D. 1583, the whole of Armenia as far as Tabreez was conquered by the Turks.

Probably no country on the face of the earth has suffered so much from bloody wars and wholesale devastation, and the history of Armenia up to its conquest by the Turks, and for a considerable period afterwards, is but one succession of horrors.

But neither time nor space will permit further attention to the early history of the country. Let us consider what the Armenians now are.

The country, as is well known, is now partitioned between three Empires, viz., those of Russia, Turkey, and Persia, the share of Turkey being much the largest, and the only one which we have to consider here.

Europeans are too apt to judge of the Armenians as a whole by the polished and well-educated specimens to be met with in Constantinople, Smyrna, and in the capitals of Europe, but this gives a very incorrect idea. We have already given a somewhat lengthy account of their neighbours the Kurds, and it will surprise many to learn that in many parts of the country it is extremely difficult to distinguish a Kurdish peasant from an Armenian, and until very lately I do not know that the Armenian peasant was much better off than the Kurd in the matter of education.

In the large towns, however, it is different, and the march of civilization, coupled with comparative wealth and a certain amount of education, has raised up a large class probably not inferior to the Constantinopolitans in looks and general intelligence, although still far behind them in the matter of general knowledge.

Of late years, however, education has been making vast strides, and the Armenians of the capital have been doing a real service to their compatriots by contributing largely for the support of schools in the Armenian provinces of a superior class to anything previously existing. If this action continues permanent, it will have a marked effect on the Armenian race, and will enable them to take a more prominent position than they now hold in what was two thousand years ago exclusively their own country.

As a rule, the Armenians are nominally the strongest in the large towns. In Van, for instance, and the surrounding villages, there are said to be 23,000 Armenian inhabitants to 10,000 Mahommedans. In Diarbekir there are 10,000 Armenians to a rather larger number of Mahommedans; in Erzeroum, Kharput, Egin, Erzinjan, and Arabkir the Armenians form a very important section of the population.

Religion.

Christianity was first introduced into Armenia by the Apostle Thaddeus during the reign of Abgarus, King of Edessa; after the death of this King, the country relapsed into idolatry, until finally converted by St. Gregory in the beginning of the fourth century. The great majority of the Armenians have remained steadfast to the faith then adopted, and are still termed Gregorians.

The Gregorian Armenians form a separate branch of the Eastern Church. They are governed by three spiritual heads, called Catholicos, and by civil heads, or Patriarchs.

The principal Catholicos is that of Etchmiadzin, in Russian Armenia; he is acknowledged by all Armenians as possessing the first rank and consequence; his Diocese is much the largest.

Next to him comes the Catholicos of Lis, in Cilicia; his origin dates from the thirteenth century.

The third is the Catholicos of Aklitamar (an island in Lake Van); he dates from the tenth century; his Diocese is extremely limited, and his influence very small.

The two Patriarchs are those of Constantinople and Jerusalem. The authority of the former is very large, and he has under his jurisdiction fifty Dioceses, whose Bishops are consecrated by the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin.

Besides the Gregorians, however, there are within the Consulate a large number of Armenians who belong to the Roman Catholic and Protestant religions; about 12,000 of the former, and 9,000 of the latter.

The Roman Catholics acknowledge Monsignor Hassoun as their spiritual and civil head, but they have had serious internal quarrels on this subject of late years. As a rule, the Catholics are better educated than the Gregorians, and are also, as a rule, a wealthier community. Considerable ill-feeling did, until very lately, exist between the Gregorians on the one hand, and Protestants and Catholics on the other, principally, I believe, from the latter having become separate communities independent of the Gregorian Patriarch.

The impetus to education which has been noted may be considered as entirely due to the exertions of the American missionaries and of the Protestant Armenians, who are a long way ahead of the other Christian communities of the East in the matter of education and general morality and progressive ideas.

As a rule, both Catholics and Protestants are more disposed to work in accord with the Turkish officials than are the Gregorians, and there is, perhaps, less *national* feeling among them. During the last year the Patriarch Narcès has been trying, with some success, to bring about a *rapprochement*.

The Armenian priests are extremely ignorant and ill-educated, and although the Armenians are devotedly attached to their religion, it would seem to be rather from national than devotional feelings. With the impetus lately given to education, we shall soon have the peasant knowing more than the priest, unless, indeed, corresponding progress be made with the education of the rising priesthood.

Language.

There are two kinds of Armenian—the ancient, or ecclesiastic language, used in their religious books, and the modern Armenian; both of them rich languages, with a large literature. The Armenian character, which was invented shortly after the introduction of Christianity, is employed in both languages.

Armenian is spoken by the great mass of the Armenian population of all religions; but there are some parts of the country where the language has been lost; and there are to be found Armenians who speak no language but Kurdish; others, like Roman Catholics of Mardin, whose mother-tongue is Arabic; others, whose mother-tongue is Turkish. There are three Turkish newspapers, published in Constantinople, printed in the Armenian character, for the benefit of the Armenians who are more familiar with the Turkish than with their own national language.

On the other hand, scattered about the Armenian provinces, we find people professing the Greek faith, but speaking Armenian; also gipsies speaking the same language.

Habits, Customs, and Character.

The Armenians generally are distinguished among the Eastern nations for their intelligence, their mild character, their industry, and their skill in mercantile pursuits.

We find many of them occupying high posts under the Turkish Government in Constantinople, but there are few or none holding administrative appointments in the Armenian provinces. They are essentially a non-warlike people; and their constant ill-treatment by, and subjection to, other races, has generated in the Armenian provinces at all events, a cringing manner and a disregard for truth which is especially distasteful to Western nations.

In Russia, where the Armenians have had greater individual liberty than in Turkey, as well as a better education, and where they are free to enter the army, many Armenians have highly distinguished themselves, and the Armenian Generals, Loris Melikoff, Lazareff, and Tergukasoff, were the most celebrated of the Russian Generals in the Asiatic theatre of the last war.

One of their own writers says with truth: "Their principal national defect is discord, a consequence of self-ambition." It seems an odd failing, for he adds: "That has been the principal cause of their losing their national kingdom."

In old times, as well as now, the principal business of the Armenians was agriculture and commerce. As traders they were and are highly renowned; and amongst the Armenians who live in foreign countries are found many who have accumulated large wealth.

As for the native Armenians, their principal occupation is agriculture; but in large towns the great majority of the Armenians follow various trades, such as weaving, tanning, dyeing, &c. There are also braziers, armourers, goldsmiths, tailors, cooks, bakers, &c.

The bankers and principal merchants are found amongst the Armenians.

It is a noteworthy fact that the inhabitants of several towns of Armenia get specially distinguished in the capital of the Empire for superior success in some special branch. For instance, the principal bankers and sarafs of Constantinople nearly all originally come from Egin, the principal merchants from Kaiseriyeh and Arabkir, the famous Constantinople hamals, or porters, mostly come from the Van and Mush districts, cooks and watchmen from Sivas, and I have even come across a country village which was famous as supplying the best coffee-makers in the capital. The Mahommedan caïquejis also many of them come from Kemach on the Euphrates, south-west of Erzinjan. Hardly a family in Arabkir or Egin that is not represented by one or more of its members in Constantinople. When these return with comparative wealth, younger members of the family take their places; and this is so much the case that it is said of those two places that it is rare that any others than women, children, and aged persons are to be met with in the streets.

In the larger towns the Christians, being numerous and wealthy, hold their own to a fair extent, and the terrible Kurd is not a living reality to them except when travelling in the wilder districts, or when they have valuable merchandize on an exposed road. They do suffer, however, morally from the haughty tone with which they are regarded and treated by their Turkish rulers and by the Turkish population, by whom they are looked on as an inferior class. Justice, too, is often unattainable against a Mahommedan except by the expenditure of large sums of money.

The position of the Armenians, however bearable it may be in the large towns, or in their neighbourhood, is very different in the provinces. I have already shown how they sometimes suffer not only from the incursions of Persian Kurds, but also from the bi-annual migrations of the nomad tribes; for, although perhaps the larger number of the latter are inoffensive shepherds, yet there are doubtless many lawless vagabonds amongst them, who naturally get the support of their co-tribesmen to shield them from discovery or punishment for their misdeeds.

But in addition to these plagues and to the hostile inroads of small or large parties of mountain Kurds from a distance, the Armenian (and Kurdish) peasant is often specially cursed in out-of-the-way places by the exactions and ill-treatment of the local Beys and Aghas.

In many parts of the country, such as Char Sandjak, Kreghi, Tchabakchoor, Sasun, and other districts well known in the annals of the Patriarchate from the wails and lamentations which issue from them, the local Chiefs, whether Turk or Kurd, occupy practically the same position as that held by our own feudal lords in bygone days, and can maltreat with impunity the peasant who holds the position of the serf. These local lords have in many cases usurped from the peasants lands to which the former have no legal right, and in the present state of the administration of the law it is absolutely impossible for justice to be obtained.

One of the first great questions that will occupy a reformed Government will be an agrarian question, which will become all the more and more bitter as the peasant

will see his way to the possible recovery of rights long since gone from him, and the Chiefs will see the probability of lands being wrenched from them which they or their ancestors have held for long periods without legal right.

The Turks.

Next in numerical strength after Kurds and Armenians come the Turks proper. Their numbers within the limits of the Consulate, including all Osmanli officials, may be put approximately at 500,000. In this estimate is included the old Turks proper, the Osmanli officials from Constantinople, and, in fact, all orthodox Mahommedans who are neither Kurds nor Arabs.

The nucleus of the Ottoman Empire is said to have been founded in Armenia in the thirteenth century by some 50,000 Ogousians, Hungarians, or Turks, who came from the east of the Caspian Sea, under the leadership of Soliman Shah, and established themselves in the neighbourhood of Erzinjan.

Suleiman's grandson, the famous Osman or Othman, was the individual who gave his name to the Ottoman Empire, which, though temporarily laid low by the hordes of Tamerlane, has lasted to the present day.

The Turks, as far as my experience goes, are in many respects a superior race to any other in the frontier provinces, sober and frugal, and physically fine, powerful men, with handsome, regular features; they bear all the appearance of being, what they really are, descendants of a conquering and ruling race. I speak of the Turkish peasant of the country districts, where civilization and its accompanying vices and deterioration has not yet penetrated. The village Turk I look on as a finer character than the Armenian peasant over whom, for generations past, he has been accustomed to lord it, and often in the provincial Medjlisses, where I have seen Turk and Christian side by side, I have been struck with the superior appearance physically of the former, as well as by their pleasant looks and dignified but courteous manners.

On the other hand, the Turk is as ignorant as the Christian peasant, whom his religion teaches him to despise, and although, by disposition, no fanatic, he is doubtless capable of being stirred up by religious stimulants.

The Turks are met with in great numbers in all the large towns, and also form the principal section of the population of the Kurdistan Consulate which lies to the north of the Kurdish element on the line Erzeroum, Erzinjan, and Divriki, on the west of the Euphrates; also they are found in large numbers in villages scattered about and alternating with Christians and Kurds. They are also numerous in all the western and south-western districts of the Consulate.

The old feudal Beys, in many cases the ancient lords of the soil, in others holders of lands conferred on them by the Sultans as rewards for military service, in great measure lost their former rights at the time of the Tanzimat, and in many places their descendants live half or wholly ruined, in their efforts to keep up a state which they have no longer the wealth to maintain. In other districts, more remote from the seats of Government, they still retain much of their ancient opulence and power, and in some instances exert it well and are looked up to by the surrounding Rayahs, who get the benefit of their protection.

In other districts, however, the reverse is the case, and the peasants curse the Chief, who often deprives them of the fruit of their toil, without affording them any corresponding advantages.

It is the Turks proper who feel principally the weight of the conscription. Living principally in towns, or forming a settled agricultural population, they are submissive to the laws of the land, and have no chance of evading conscription.

The late war has left many a blank and ruined many a household. From almost every Turkish house a bread-earning member was away for some years, many of them never to return. The system of recruiting for the Turkish army from amongst Mahommedans only is undoubtedly a very heavy burden to them.

Nearly the whole mass of the Ottoman officials are drawn from the Turkish population of the Empire, but the greater number of the higher officials come from Constantinople; the others are mostly from the large towns in the interior. There is little sympathy between them and the people of the country, whether Moslem or Christian, and I feel sure that at no recent period has the Government and its officials been so deservedly unpopular as at present.

I have already spoken of the Turkish villagers, uncorrupted by contact with a so-called civilization. Of the townspeople I cannot, perhaps, speak so favourably. Contact with Ottoman officials improves no one, and almost every one, whether Turk

or Christian, who mixes much in official matters, gets a taint on his moral character. I fear the Christian members of the Medjliss are not a whit less corrupt than the Moslems, and although there are rare exceptions to this general rule, both as regards Christian and Moslem, the Medjlisses and their surroundings and all officialdom are intensely corrupt.

The trades are mostly monopolized by the Christians, but the Turks make good saddlers, armourers, and braziers. Many of them are also employed as small traders. The profession of sarraf, or banker, is prohibited by their religion.

As a rule the feeling between Turk and Christian in the large towns is not satisfactory; the Turks look down on and despise their Christian neighbours, who naturally hate and dislike those who show such arrogance, a sentiment which is not diminished by the knowledge that, *cæteris paribus*, the Osmanli official will always favour his co-religionist in any dispute he may have with a Christian rival.

In Erzeroum, Diarbekir, and Van this feeling is very intense; in some other towns, such as Mardin, Egin, and Erzinjan, there is, as far as I can judge, a much better feeling prevailing on both sides.

In education the Turks are even more backward than the Christians, but there are indications of a strong desire rising amongst them for improvement in this respect.

The Syrians.—Nestorians.

Next in numerical order amongst the permanent residents of the Consulate come the Nestorians.

The latest and most reliable estimates of the Nestorian population in Asiatic Turkey vary from 53,940* to 74,466† souls.

Nestorius, from whom they derive their name, was originally a monk of Antioch, and afterwards Patriarch of Constantinople in the fifth century after Christ. It is impossible, in the short limits of this paper, to discuss the religious tenets of these so-called Nestorians. It is sufficient to say that their doctrines have a very near approximation to those of our own Church.

These interesting people consider themselves as Chaldeans and descendants of the ancient Chaldeans of Assyria, Mesopotamia, and Babylonia, driven into the mountains by the persecution of Mahommedanism and by the inroads of Tartars under Tamerlane.

They form a fairly compact body in the country to the south-east of the Van Vilayet.

They are divided into two classes, the Ashireth, or tribal Nestorians, and the Rayahs (non-tribal); the former, who are about twice as numerous as the latter, principally inhabit mountain fastnesses, which they have generally managed to keep free of Government officials and hostile Kurds. Their taxes ought to be paid through Mar Shimoon, the Patriarch, who is not only their spiritual but civil head.

The Rayahs live generally in the plains, and are freely exposed to the exactions and oppressions of the authorities, and the marauding excursions of hostile Kurds, by whom they are surrounded on all sides. They acknowledge the spiritual dominion of Mar Shimoon, as also do the 25,000 Persian Nestorians who live in the Oroomiah Plain, near the lake of that name.

Two of the principal mountain tribes, the Tiyari and the Tehoma, containing about 2,800 families, living in extremely secluded mountain valleys, are practically quite independent of the Government, pay no taxes, and have no dealing whatever with it. For the last three years also they appear to have cast off all adherence to Mar Shimoon, who lives in the small village of Kochannes, near Julamerg, a place situate in the centre of the Nestorian districts.

As a rule the Nestorians live much in fear of their Kurdish neighbours, and well they may!

In 1843 the Kurds under Beder Khan Bey, the then feudal Lord of Bohtan (to the west of the Nestorians), invaded their country, and under the instigation of Sheikh Tahar, the father of the now notorious Sheikh Obeidullah, committed frightful massacres. There appears, however, at the present moment to be less hostile feelings between them; and the Sheikh has, doubtless with a view to his own interests, been endeavouring to conciliate and even enter into alliance with the mountain Nestorians, some of whom seem inclined, rather, I imagine, through fear than through love, to

* Captain Clayton. † Rev. Mr. Cutts.

meet his advances favourably. A great many Rayah Nestorians live in Shemdinan, the Sheikh's own province, and are, to all intents and purposes, his serfs.

The present Patriarch, Mar Shimoon, appears to be a well-meaning, but indolent and incapable man, and does not possess the influence which he would certainly wield if more capable and energetic.

As may naturally be expected, the wild independent mountain Nestorian differs much in character from the ill-treated Rayah of the plain. The former are a well-to-do, brave, and hardy race, the latter crushed down by poverty and centuries of oppression.

With the exception of some few individuals who have had the benefit of education in the American mission schools (now, I believe, no longer tolerated), few except the priests can read or write.

The language spoken in the country is a dialect of Syriac, differing considerably from the old Syriac of their religious books.

The Nestorians have the unenviable reputation of being amongst the greatest liars in the East.

The Nestorians are a mixed agricultural and pastoral race. Many of them emigrate during the winter months to Diarbekir, Aleppo, and other large cities, where they generally follow the trade of basket-makers.

Chaldeans.

The Chaldeans are of identically the same race as the Nestorians described above. Their ancestors some few generations back seceded from their old Church and joined that of Rome. Retaining their old name of Chaldeans, they bestowed somewhat contemptuously on the brothers they had left the name of Nestorians.

They are not a very numerous or influential sect; their head-quarters are at Mosul, but there is an Archbishop at Diarbekir, a clever man, educated at Rome. I do not think there are more than 6,000 of them in the Kurdistan Consulate, the great number of whom are found at and about Djezireh, on the Tigris, and north and north-east of that place, lying between it and the Nestorian country.

Physically they are a fine race of men, especially about Djezireh.

They are mostly an agricultural race. At Diarbekir and Djezireh the Chaldeans speak Arabic, in some districts Kurdish, and near the Nestorian country I believe they speak modern Syriac.

Jacobites.

The Jacobites, or Old Syrians, as they style themselves, come, I imagine, of much the same stock as the Nestorians. There are about 12,000 of them in my Consular district, nearly all of whom reside in the Mardin Sandjak. They are named after the founder of their religion, a monk of the name of Jacob, a seceder from the ancient Church of Antioch. In the Midyad Caza, a rugged, hilly, stony district, they muster very strong, and there are several large villages there composed entirely of Jacobites—a fine, manly, handsome race—speaking amongst themselves Turani, a dialect of modern Syriac, although many of them are almost equally familiar with Kurdish.

Most of the Christians in these districts carry arms, and they appear to hold their own pretty fairly with their Kurdish neighbours, and sometimes join them in opposing the visits of the officials who traverse the country periodically, collecting taxes, to aid them in which they are generally accompanied by soldiers and irregular levies of hostile Kurds.

The Jacobite Patriarch has been wandering about the world some years past collecting funds, whether for himself or his Church is somewhat doubtful, but the people, who are ignorant and neglected, complain bitterly of his absence, and of the spiritual neglect with which they are treated. Many of them have lately joined the Protestant Church.

Catholic Syrians.

The Catholic Syrians, who call themselves Syriani, to distinguish themselves from the Jacobites or Old Syrians, are of the same race, but converted to the Roman Catholic faith. They are found in small numbers in Diarbekir and Mardin, but are an unimportant section of the community.

Greeks.

The Greeks being good miners and masons, are found in the neighbourhood of the lead or copper mines; thus they are met with at Argunah Maaden, in the Kharput Vilayet; also in various parts of the Erzeroum Vilayet, especially in the towns of Erzeroum and Baiburt. There being now little demand for their labour, their state is not a prosperous one, and during the last year several families have emigrated to Russia, where they have been received with open arms. Their numbers in the Consulate do not exceed 5,000. They have in certain localities entirely lost their original language, but speak as their mother-tongue the prevailing language of the districts. Most of them belong to the Orthodox or Greek religion, but some few are Roman Catholics.

The Yezidis.

The Yezidis, or Devil-worshippers, are a very curious race of people, who are scattered in groups about the Consular district to the number of about 20,000. They ought, perhaps, to have been included under the head of Kurds, as they universally speak the Kurdish language. They are believed by some to be the remnants of the lost tribes, and a Syriac manuscript of date A.D. 1253 contains the statement that the Yezidis, or Izidis, are of Hebrew descent. The great peculiarity about them is their religion, which is based on the idea that there are two spirits of nearly but not quite equal power, the good and the evil. At the present the good is in the ascendant, but the turn of the other may some day come, and as the good spirit cannot, from his nature, possibly do them harm, it is, in their opinion, of great importance to conciliate and be on good terms with the evil spirit. Their religion is, however, mixed up with several forms of Christianity, and I believe they use the rite of baptism, and make the sign of the Cross. Their religious centre is at Sheikh Adi, a village in the mountains east of Mosul.

The Yezidis, like the Kizilbash, have been accused by the Sunnite Moslems, who detest and despise them, of the perpetration of the most disgusting orgies during their nocturnal religious ceremonies, but I believe the accusation to be false in both instances.

The Yezidis have not been unfavourably spoken of by those who know them best. Mr. Ainsworth described them as having candour, integrity, industry, courage, cleanliness, and civility, but on the other hand fierceness, love of war, rebellion, and predatory exploits. I can certainly answer for the last point, for they are famous freebooters. The Turkish officials, in order to catch them for the conscription, call them Moslems, and in the southern districts of the Diarbekir Vilayet, where they are mostly found, they are now enrolled as soldiers. In the Bayazid district of Erzeroum there is a large Yezidi tribe, the Sippikanli, which gives no soldiers, but, like the Kurds (from whom, indeed, they can hardly be distinguished) supplies irregular horsemen in time of war.

Their habits are generally agricultural and pastoral, and they are, of course, equally ill-educated with other races around them. The greatest number of them are found in the Sinjar Mountains, in the desert to the west of Mosul, where they have constant feuds with their Arab neighbours. They are also very numerous in the Midyad and Nisibin districts of Mardin, and are again found on the Turco-Russian frontier near Bayazid. There are several Yezidi villages across the border.

The Arabs.

The Bedouins of the desert can, perhaps, hardly be considered as belonging to my Consular district—except, perhaps, the Tai, a pastoral tribe of about 1,000 tents, living near Nisibin. The country at the foot of the Sinjar Mountains and near Khabur River, is a great resort for the Shamar Bedouin tribes; but, although formerly a portion of the Diarbekir Vilayet, it is now under Mosul. As this paper has already attained an inconvenient length, and the habits of the Arabs are well known, I shall not here write anything more about them.

The Terek-Imans.

The Terek-Imans, or Kara-Papaks—not to be confounded with Turkomans—exist to the extent of some few thousands in villages in the Bayazid district; some thousands more have emigrated from the territory lately annexed by Russia, where about 25,000 once resided.

According to the late Mr. Consul Taylor, these people, from their faith, customs, and type, seem to be the descendants of Persians, natives of Northern Azerbijan, who emigrated from Persia when that portion of the present Russian territory was conquered by Shah Abbas.

The great body of these people still reside in the southern Caucasian provinces of Russia.

The Terek-Imans occupy at present the villages and lands formerly belonging to the Armenians who followed Marshal Paskewich's army into Russia. They are all Shiahs, and the head of the tribe lives in the north of Persia, and all Terek-Imans, whether in Russia, Turkey, or Persia, are under his influence.

Jews.

The Jews are an uninfluential community, and small in number. There is a large colony of them of several hundreds at Bashkaleh, in Hakkiari, and there are smaller colonies in the Diarbekir Vilayet at Nisibin and Djezireh, and at Diarbekir itself, where they are a very poor and neglected community, without even a school.

Gypsies.

Are few in number, and, scattered about the country. I can give no information about them except that they speak Armenian, Kurdish, or Turkish, according to the district in which they live.

Kizilbash Turks and Turkomans.

I have described the Kizilbash Turks when dealing with the Kizilbash Kurds in a former part of this paper. The Turkomans are rarely found in the frontier provinces, but there are a few hundred houses of them settled in villages in the districts bordering the Tigris east of Diarbekir. These are Shiah Mahommedans, a fine, good-looking, and intelligent race of men of quiet habits.

Circassians and Tchetchens.

The Tchetchens came from the Caucasus about sixteen years ago, and were settled in Ras-ul-Ain, in the Mesopotamian Plain, south-west of Mardin, some 20,000 strong. Their settlement has lately been transferred from the Government of Diarbekir to that of Zor (Aleppo). They have had their hands against every man, and every man's hand against them. Originally intended as a barrier against the Arabs, they have lost the greater part of their number in fighting with Arabs and Kurds, and against famine and pestilence. Their numbers are now dwindled down to about 5,000. A great many of them are employed as zaptiehs in the Diarbekir Vilayet, but they are so unpopular that there are many districts in the desert and elsewhere where they dare not penetrate. They are a fine, handsome, intelligent race of men.

The Circassians to be found in Mosh and elsewhere in the northern districts of the Consulate are not very numerous.

Their habits are too well known to require description here.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.

Constantinople, October 30, 1880.

No. 202.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, November* 18, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transcribe hereafter a telegram which I have forwarded this day to your Lordship:—

"Turkish wooden frigate 'Mukbiri Surur' from Constantinople, departed last night to embark Lazes emigrating from Batoum."

I understand that 300 families are to be landed at Ordoo. Together with former emigrants, the number of Lazes located in that district will then amount to about 5,000 souls.

Two other Turkish ships are shortly expected here, also for the purpose of conveying Laz emigrants to other parts of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 203.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 619.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Major Warlow, reporting on a tour he has lately taken in the Sandjaks of Kutaya and Kara-Hissar, in the Vilayet of Khudavendikyar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Major Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Brussa, November* 23, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have just returned from a month's tour in the Sandjaks of Kutaya and Kara-Hissar, during which I visited the towns of the same names, and made acquaintance with the Mutessarifs (Lieutenant-Governors) and principal officials.

2. Both the above sandjaks, which comprise about half of the Vilayet of Khudavendikyar, are in a most miserable condition at present, and their prospects during the coming winter are gloomy in the extreme. Opium, for which Kara-Hissar is celebrated, and of which large quantities are also grown in Kutaya, was almost entirely destroyed by the exceptional severity of last winter, the crop not being above one-fifth of the average, while throughout by far the greater part of both sandjaks wheat, barley, and other cereals were totally devoured by locusts, the fields being left perfectly bare.

3. This double calamity, coming after two years of poor harvests, has simply beggared the mass of the peasantry, and seriously affected even the well-to-do classes.

4. I do not apprehend a famine, *i.e.*, absolute want of food, as flour is being imported from Constantinople, while wheat and other grain is coming in from Angora and Koniah in large quantities, but there must of necessity be great distress amongst both the peasantry and the poor in the towns; prices, high at present, are certain to rise during winter, when the roads will be blocked with snow, and further importation of grain be impossible.

5. The Mutessarifs have, I believe, some small quantity of grain in store, for distribution when things are at their worst, but this they keep secret in order not to check importation.

6. Government have been applied to for assistance in the shape of money and seed-grain, and have promised to supply a certain amount of the latter.

7. A considerable quantity of land has fallen out of cultivation for want of hands, owing to the fearful loss of life during the Russian War; nor is this to be wondered at when it is remembered that the Redifs were nearly all small landowners and heads of households, and that of 40,000 who were sent from this one Sandjak of Kutaya only about one-fifth returned to their homes; even this loss was exceeded in one village which I visited, where of 1,000 Redifs only 30 were fortunate enough to get back from the war. Such a waste of life appears hardly credible, but I give these figures only after careful inquiry in various places and from people who had no object in deceiving me.

8. The number of refugees in the country through which I passed is not great, and I heard but few complaints of their conduct; in the plains the roads are safe enough, but such is not the case where they pass over hills and through forests, which give shelter to gangs of robbers.

9. In these two sandjaks, as elsewhere, improved means of communication are much needed, the so-called roads being merely cleared tracks, which, in the plains, become little better than swamps in wet weather, while in the hills they are so rugged and broken up as to be almost impassable for carts.

10. Regarding the administration of justice, I heard nothing but complaints. No one has a good word to say for the new system, which produces no better results than the old one, while it is even more dilatory and costly.

11. During my stay at the head-quarters of the two sandjaks the conscription for the army happened to be going on, and I had an opportunity of observing its working. All able-bodied men between the ages of 20 and 26 are liable to serve, the proportion of recruits required this year being 1 in 6, but exemption is made in favour of only sons of widows or old men, and others on whose labour a household is entirely dependent, and, in some cases, of men whose brothers are at present in the army. From inquiries made at different places I found that, as a rule, fully half the young men liable to serve were exempted, so that of those who finally appeared before the Recruiting Committee quite 1 in 3 were taken as soldiers. The enormous proportion of exemption is important as confirming what I had heard of the losses during the war, and as showing how heavily the conscription now falls on the impoverished country. A Turkish officer remarked to me that soon they would be unable to find recruits, and would be forced to admit Christians to fill the ranks of the army.

12. The gaol at Kara-Hissar, which I inspected at the request of the Mutessarif, is badly situated and fearfully overcrowded. Ventilation there is next to none, and in hot weather it must be a perfect "Black Hole." Many of the men confined in it have been under trial for three or four years, and are likely to remain so for an indefinite period. This is the case in all the gaols which I have visited, and seems to be taken as a matter of course.

13. I found that, as a rule, the Christians were in no way molested in the exercise of their religion, and were fairly represented in the different Courts. Such, however, was not the case at Eski-Shehr, where the Greeks and Armenians, principally merchants engaged in the meerschaum trade, although they number between 2,500 and 3,000, were not, until within the last three or four years, allowed to build houses, and are even now afraid to erect a church on account of the fanaticism of the Turkish inhabitants, influenced greatly by the Mufti, who, for the last thirty years, has been a steady adversary of the "Giaours."

14. I told the principal Christians that if they chose to write a petition on this subject to the Vali (Governor) I would give it to him myself, but up to this time they have not taken advantage of my offer, and consequently I have not moved in the matter.

15. On my return to Brussa (18th instant) I heard it generally rumoured that the Vali (Ahmed Vefyk Pasha) was about to leave under orders from Constantinople, and from what he himself said when I called upon him I gather that there is some foundation for the report. His removal would be nothing less than a public calamity, especially with the vilayet in its present condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 204.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 739.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 8, 1880.*

M. MINASSE TCHÉRAZ called upon me to-day to plead the cause of the Armenians. He seemed to fear that he and Odian Effendi, with others who had made representations to Her Majesty's Government on behalf of their fellow-countrymen, might be placed in an awkward position on their return to Constantinople if their proceedings were suspected by the Turkish authorities. I have accordingly to request your Excellency to do all that you consider you properly can to preserve these gentlemen from molestation in case there should be any danger of their fears being realized.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 205.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 636.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 1, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 595 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Richards on the subject of the late Armenian riot at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Acting Vice-Consul Richards to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Sivas, November 15, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I telegraphed to you on the 6th November in cypher to the following effect:—

"Pera telegraph clerks have refused (to) forward (the) following cypher message to Colonel Wilson; please communicate (the) same: 'Disturbance by low Armenian mob on occasion of (a) barbarous murder occurred twelve days ago, has been followed by perfect quiet. Chermside, after careful investigation, has concluded that (it is) no use his remaining longer, as (the) only chance of fresh trouble would be from Turkish reaction. As this did not occur at the time or since, he has left to-day, as unless (he) remains indefinitely there would be no use, as it would be (a) pure chance whether such occurred now or at any time (in) next few months. If you wish him to remain I can recall him from any telegraph station along the road or from Jours Gate (Josgat). You can correspond with him there (on) Monday. He has not cypher.'"

With reference to this disturbance, a full and detailed account of which was sent to your Excellency by Mr. Chermside previous to his departure, I beg to inform you that, suspicion resting on two Circassians, travelling companions of the unfortunate man at the time of his murder, his Excellency the Vali dispatched the Public Prosecutor with a considerable escort of police in pursuit of them. Four days ago this official returned, having succeeded in capturing the suspected persons, who are now in Sivas prison awaiting their trial. In justice to the Vali, I feel it my duty to state that his conduct in this particular is worthy of commendation, the so far successful issue of the affair being entirely due to the prompt and effectual measures taken by him to secure the persons of the accused as soon as intelligence of the murder reached him. Unfortunately his subsequent conduct has not been equally praiseworthy, although allowance should be made for a very natural feeling of indignation at the treatment he sustained at the hands of the rioters. As Mr. Chermside informed your Excellency, it was evidently the intention of the Vali to give a political significance to an outbreak which, in the opinion of all impartial judges, Moslem as well as Christian, it does not merit. There can be no doubt, after consideration of the facts as they occurred, that the movement was a spontaneous one, and that therefore the charge of instigation which the Governor-General brings against the Armenian Bishop and notables is groundless.

I regret to state to your Excellency that the Vali still persists in this view of the case, and has in consequence delayed hitherto to bring the guilt home to the individuals who were concerned in the outrage, although I know that he has in his possession a list of the names of the chief rioters, which, in fact, he showed to Mr. Chermside and myself during an interview we had with him.

He has made several efforts to persuade the Bishop to take the matter up, in his character of religious head of the Christian community, and after summary investigation to give him a list of those chiefly concerned in the riot, with a view, the Vali maintains, of showing that not only had he no share in instigating the outrage, but, on the contrary, that he strongly reprobated the whole proceeding, and, in proof of this, was co-operating with the Vali to bring the guilty men to justice.

The Bishop refuses to comply on two grounds, firstly, that inasmuch as he was not present during the riot, he could not possibly be expected to identify the rioters; and secondly, that such a line of action, besides being altogether incompatible with his dignity as religious head of the Armenian community, would seriously compromise him for the future.

I need not say that the Vali still maintains that the Bishop's action in the matter is a very strong proof of his complicity, and warrants the political colouring which he has given to the affair, although, if questioned closely on the latter point, he stoutly disavows any such views. The trial of the two Circassians will commence as soon as the festival of Bairam is over, and it is to be hoped that by that time the Vali, having had time to reflect on and see the folly of the line of action he has hitherto pursued, will have taken the necessary steps to bring the guilt home to the men whom he has every reason to believe to be implicated in the outrage.

In explanation of the first few lines of the telegram which I sent to your Excellency, I must inform you that I sent the main body of the telegram, as it stands, to Colonel Wilson on the morning of the 5th instant. In the evening of the same day the telegraph clerk brought me word that the head of the Telegraph Department in Pera had refused to deliver the message on the ground that it was forbidden by Government for Consuls to communicate with one another in cypher. The clerk then showed me the message he had received. In consequence of this I sent the telegram direct to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. RICHARDS.

No. 206.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 754.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 13, 1880.*

I HAVE received Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 581 of the 16th ultimo, inclosing an able and exhaustive Report by Major Trotter on the Kurds, and giving an account of his Excellency's conversation with Assim Pasha in regard to the present invasion of Persia.

I have to express my approval of the language held by Mr. Goschen as to the policy which Turkey seems inclined to pursue in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 207.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 17.)

(No. 10. Commercial.)
Sir, *Van, November 2, 1880.*

I HAVE to report that the Vali of Bitlis has forbidden altogether the export of cereals from his vilayet. He will not even permit me to bring to Van a small quantity of wheat, some 300 Constantinople kilés, which I had bought for famine relief purposes before the prohibition was promulgated, though it was published before I could get the corn shipped. I cannot understand the reason of this strict prohibition, as by all accounts the harvest in the Bitlis Vilayet has been unusually plentiful. I am, moreover, given to understand that the Imperial Commissioners made a recommendation to the Porte that a considerable amount of corn should be permitted to be exported from the Bitlis to the Van Vilayet, but the Vali has managed to evade this recommendation.

The harvest has apparently been very good everywhere in the plain country, but in the Van Vilayet there is a large extent of mountain country, viz., all Hakkiari, Shaddakh, Nurduz, and Norkus. In those districts the harvest has been a poor one, as the millet, which promised to be abundant, has been ruined by cold, and therefore there will undoubtedly be a great deal of distress again this winter in those parts. What with prospects of famine and the Kurdish robberies, there is a great exodus from Hakkiari, and many parts, especially Gevver, will be depopulated if matters continue as they are much longer.

The price of grain at Van has fallen a little, but is still very high, about 4½ medjidiés the chap, which is equal to 2 Constantinople kilés (about). This is caused by the fact that the plain country, where the harvest has been good, is limited in extent as compared with the whole area of this vilayet, and that importation from Persia has been stopped by the Kurdish troubles, and is forbidden from Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 208.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 646.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Konia reporting on a journey he has recently made through Karaman, Ermenek, Kilindria, Lelepke, and Mersina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 208.

Captain Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 23. Political.)
Sir, *Konia, November 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I returned here on the 16th instant, after a journey through Karaman, Ermenek, Kilindria, Lelepke, and Mersina.

At Karaman, which is the great centre for the corn trade of this district, I was informed little or no business in the export trade was being done this year. This is partly to be accounted for by the extensive destruction caused by locusts, and also by the corn being undersold by foreign competition. As a consequence the camels, which are usually busily employed at this time of the year, are now idle. Karaman, which was formerly a place of some importance, is now in a state of decay. The town is very unhealthy, as witness the extensive graveyards which surround it. There are many ownerless houses, the people having died off. Many of these houses are now taken up by emigrants.

Some three hours south of the town the building of a village for Tcherkers has been commenced. I visited the place, and found about fifteen houses in process of building. The workmen on the spot complained that their pay was very much in arrear. The general plan of the houses appeared good. Stone is the building material. The emigrant official at Karaman tells me that it is intended to complete some thirty to forty houses; also that 30,000 piastres have already been spent, and that about 30,000 more are wanted, but cannot be got.

Ermenek in the Adana Vilayet is a poor, miserable place: some 3,000 houses, situated on the steep slope of a high range of the Taurus, and overlooking the Geuk Su Valley. The inhabitants are all Turks. There are some twenty to thirty Armenian traders, mostly natives of Kaisseriyeh, who visit the town on business.

Kilindria is a small sea-port town of forty to fifty houses. It is said to be about sixty miles from Cyprus. It is situated along the sides of a small open bay or cove. The inhabitants are Greeks and Turks. Judging by the ruins, it was probably at one time a considerable place. The inhabitants were full of the improvements that had taken place in Cyprus, and of the security and regularity that prevailed there. There is but little trade. Corn, grain, &c., are imported from Cyprus.

Between Kilindria and Lelepke the road is very bad, merely a rough track following more or less the sea-coast. There are many wild olive trees growing along the mountain sides. This coast, which was formerly well wooded, is now for all practical purposes bare. The trees have all been cut down and exported to Egypt, Syria, &c. That there is still some export in wood is evident from a few small vessels that were anchored here and there along the coast. The wood they were taking in was, however, small, and only fit for fuel. To give the country a chance of recovery the export of wood ought to be stopped for many years to come.

Lelepke is another small seaport. The anchorage is said to be good, and somewhat protected by a low spit of land. There is some idea of making a road between Lelepke and Karaman, passing the moat, in which case Lelepke has a promising future. It is, however, improbable that in the present impoverished state of the Exchequer this idea will be carried out.

The residence of the Governor of the Sandjak (Ischil) is in a poor, miserable town of some 400 houses, also called Lelepke, some 5 miles from the port, and separated from it by a plain. A wide road, now more or less out of repair, connects the two places. Here also, judging by the many ruins, there must have been a town of considerable importance. The town is situated on the right bank of the Geuk Su, across which

there is a masonry bridge in good repair. A dam has also been built to collect the water of the river to irrigate the plain. After costing a lot of money, it was found that the levels were all wrong, and that the dam ought to have been built higher up. The inhabitants are said to be exceptionally lazy and unenterprising. There are some twenty-five or thirty Christian houses.

Between Lolepke and Meesina the road or track is also generally very bad. There are many ruins—remains of old houses, paved roads, aqueducts, sarcophagi, &c. The population is chiefly Yurooks or wanderers, who encamp along the coast for the winter months.

Near Meesina the hills bend away from the coast, leaving a bush-covered plain, which might, with a little energy, be made available for emigrants. There is no scarcity of water.

Meesina, the seaport for Adana, has grown considerably within the last few years. There is an extensive trade, and a fair carriagable road between it and Adana. The anchorage is good, but quite exposed.

The Kaïmakam has recently been removed or resigned. His successor is a former Kaïmakam of the place, who was dismissed from there some time ago for gross bribery and corruption. So notorious was his corruption, that before leaving he was forced to disgorge 50 per cent. of his gains.

The Konia Vali has not yet returned from his inspection in the east of the vilayet. He is shortly expected.

I am informed, on good authority, that as compared with last year the revenue derived from tithes has fallen off 50 per cent. This is partly to be accounted for to the ravages of the locusts, but in a far greater measure is due to the gross venality and corruption of the tithe gatherers. Government has tried to recoup itself by cutting down their salaries, but for every piastre saved in this way two or three are lost through the increased robbery.

I am leaving for Adalia about the 1st of next month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 209.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 654.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting upon the state of affairs in that vilayet and the proceedings of the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 209.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 50.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November 16, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 52 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency the further information which I have obtained with regard to Sirri Pasha's movements, and other details connected with the state of things in this province.

The Governor-General caused the arrest at Boulandjak of Nafooz Kara Ibrahimoglou, one of the worst malefactors of the district of Kerassond, and left orders for the apprehension of other perturbators of the public peace.

Having inspected the Karahissar road, the construction of which is actively pushed on, as I reported when I visited it, he ordered that the natives who are engaged in the work without remuneration should at least receive rations. He seems to have stated in so doing that, as the British Consul of Trebizond had no doubt reported on the subject, it was better to avoid blame by having rations issued to the workmen.

I doubt not that the Governor-General, in all cases, would have come to the same decision, as most of the men employed were too poor to procure their own food, but I believe that the fact being known to a foreign Consular Agent has been a further inducement for Sirri Pasha to adopt the measure without delay.

From Kerassond, where he intends to call again before his return here, the Vali proceeded to Samsoon to inquire into the conduct of the Mutessarif of that town. So far as I have been able to learn, though there are no proofs of his having committed malversations, little doubt remains to the Governor-General of his being culpable of corrupt practices.

Sirri Pasha is now at Uniah, making an inquiry into the question of the tithe claimed over again from the peasants, and in consequence of which the Kaïmakam of that town was dismissed from the service by the Mutessarif of Samsoon, owing to the former having endeavoured in that circumstance to protect the poorer classes against the natives who are in power.

The Vali also bestows his attention to the construction of roads from the sea-coast to the inland cantons, which he intends to visit himself, and has called at Uniah for the purpose of surveying the ground [with?] the engineer of this province.

Sirri Pasha has the intention to proceed from thence to Ordoo, and examine the possibility of a road to the interior from Vona Bay, one of the safest anchorages on the southern coast of the Black Sea. In that case the inhabitants of the town of Ordoo, whose climate is unhealthy, might in the course of time find it convenient for them to remove to Vona, where at present there is only a small village.

I have already reported to your Excellency that Sirri Pasha had desired the Armenian member of the Court of Appeal at Trebizond to proceed to Gumushané and Gourtun, and inquire into the alleged outrage against two Greeks, one of whom is said to have died in consequence of the torture inflicted on him by Mussulmans of the village of Seugudenly, but there being an Under-Public Prosecutor at Gumushané, the judicial authorities at Trebizond did not feel justified to act on the invitation of the Pasha without being empowered to do so by their superiors at Constantinople. No decision has yet been taken on the subject, and the more time elapses the more difficult it will prove to ascertain the real state of the case.

The Mutessarif of Gumushané, who was quite unfit for the post he held, has been at last dismissed, at the repeated instances of Sirri Pasha. This result is the more satisfactory, because the Mutessarif in question owed his position to Palace influence, his wife having been one of its inmates.

Eyub Zadé Ali Effendi has likewise been dismissed from his functions of Under-Public Prosecutor at Trebizond, a post to which he should have never been nominated. For, though he is a very able man, the Porte must have had good reasons for ordering, some years back, that he should never be employed in an official capacity. I reported this circumstance so far back as two years ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—*November* 18.—On my return from my journey in the western districts I brought to the notice of Sirri Pasha, among other things, the fact that two Turkish women had been carried off by two boats' crews, as reported in my despatch No. 50 of the 19th ultimo.

I am just informed that, in consequence of the stringent orders issued by the Governor-General, the women in question were restored to their husbands, and that the principals in the rape were apprehended by Mehmed Ali Effendi, the Mudir of Aktché-Abad, the same who, a few months back, fulfilled the functions of Acting Kaïmakam at Kerassond to the entire satisfaction of the population of that district.

The Mudir of Charli, seeing his authority set at defiance by the powerful Agas in that district, and being in the receipt of a salary of only 400 piastres a-month, has placed his resignation in the hands of the Governor-General.

A. B.

No. 210.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 655.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 8, 1880.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Henderson relative to the condition of the Christian populations in the district of Gisser Schoght.

As Lieutenant Chermside happens at this moment to be in Constantinople, and was attached to the Reform Commission in the Aleppo Vilayet, I have shown him Mr. Henderson's Report, on which he has written a short memorandum, of which I have likewise the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 210.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 42.)
Sir, *Aleppo, November* 18, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 16th October, and, in reply, I beg to state to your Excellency that, on my return from my tour of inspection to the district of Gisser Schoght, I used every possible effort to induce the Vali to take energetic steps to protect the Christian population of that district, and I urged that it was incumbent on him as Vali of the province to take some steps in the matter, and I made a warm appeal to him, as a humane and upright man, to take severe measures against the Dere Beys.

My representations were not without effect at the time, and he assured me that he would immediately telegraph, advising the Porte of his departure for the district in question, and demanding authority to exile the Dere Beys, Aarif and Sabit Aghas.

I believe he received no reply to this telegram, or if he did it was not of such a nature as to encourage him in his apparently good intentions.

The day before he proposed to leave he was taken seriously ill. He suffers from the painful malady of *angina pectoris*, and he had such a severe attack that his life was despaired of. He recovered, and left on his journey a few weeks after.

Saïd Pasha does not understand a word of Arabic, and he took with him two or three Notables of Aleppo, by whose advice and counsel he was to be guided. His Excellency is undiscerning and naïve to an almost incredible degree, and his choice of counsellors unfortunately fell on two very corrupt and fanatical Mussulmans, who, while they filled their own pockets at the expense of the Mussulmans, advised his Excellency that the complaints of the Christians were groundless. On the strength of information gathered from such unilateral sources, and also, I believe, for other reasons of a personal nature, which I have already stated to your Excellency in former despatches, his Excellency's conduct in this matter altogether belies the opinion which is, I believe, entertained of him outside the radius of this vilayet.

On my return to Aleppo from the desert, I found the Armenian Bishop of Kessab (who is in very poor health) imprisoned at Alexandretta by express order of his Excellency. On my remonstrance he was released, and allowed to go to Beyrout for medical advice.

The Greek Bishop of Ordoo had, at his Excellency's instance, to quit his diocese and take refuge at Zattaquia, and the Armenian Bishop of Gisser took the ill-treatment of his co-religionists so much to heart that the poor man took to his bed, and is now seriously ill. The principal Armenian employé of the Government, a man whom Saïd Pasha has repeatedly declared to me to be thoroughly honest, was summarily dismissed and replaced by a connection of Aarif Agha's, on account of its having been reported to Saïd Pasha that he had been heard to remark that he earnestly prayed for the end of this awful state of anarchy, and that some civilized Government would occupy the country.

It may be interesting to your Excellency to know that Saïd Pasha while at Ordoo was the guest of the Dere Beys (Aarif and Sabit Aghas), and that the Kaïmakam has become a special protégé of Saïd Pasha's.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 210.

Memorandum by Lieutenant Chermside.

THE oppression by local Notables, feudal Chiefs, &c., is a crying evil all over Turkey in Asia. It has never been practically dealt with since the first great blow

to the feudal system in the application of the Tanzimat. Arbitrary exile is not a suitable measure for constant employment, reforms in gendarmerie and Tribunals; and additional powers to Governors-General would deal with the matter more satisfactorily. At present, however, the Government must exile or intern men, or prosecute. When Reform Commission was in Aleppo district the power of exiling notorious oppressors was not granted to the Commission; the general oppression throughout district due to these men is described in various places ("Turkey No. 1, 1880"). Abédine Pasha exiled many Kurdish and Arab Chieftains; these never got beyond Aleppo, Sivas, &c., and have now all been released or escaped one by one.

At Sivas he imprisoned various feudal Chiefs and others, who have since been liberated.

At Erzeroum, with the Geghi Beys, it was the same. It is, therefore, a wide question which, if once opened, might necessitate similar interference in every Consular district.

The answer of the Porte to Valis is, prosecute in the Courts. The practical result is, that even if the notorious tyrants are arrested their command of money, local influence, and power in the Courts deter any accusers from coming forward.

(Signed) H. CHERMSIDE.

December 6, 1880.

No. 211.

General Report by Lieutenant Bennet on the Sandjak of Kaisarieh.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 22).

Introductory.—The Kaisarieh Sandjak is the south-eastern division of the Angora Vilayet, the central district of Anatolia; northwards it extends across the Kizil Irmak and forms an irregular boundary-line with the Sandjak of Yusgat, which also belongs to the Angora Vilayet; to the east and south it is bounded, roughly speaking, by the Sumantia Su and spurs from the Allah Dagh; while to the west it borders the Konieh Vilayet. The central and prominent feature of the district is the snow-clad mountain Argius, a colossal and solitary clump of mountains rising irregularly to a height of 13,000 and odd feet, and having a perimeter at the base of about 100 miles. Three sides of this magnificent pile are surrounded by a continuous plain, part marshy and part cultivated, draining into the Kizil Irmak, with an average altitude of 3,500 feet above the sea. It has a varying width of from 1 to 10 miles. On the fourth side, eastwards, the mountain terminates less abruptly, stretching away in undulating spurs to the Sumantia Su. Outside the plain hills rise to an average height of 1,200 feet, northwards, in an almost continuous fringe, which, after a few miles of table-land, becomes broken and terminates in the Kizil Irmak, while to the west the hills are conical. Almost due north of the highest peak of Mount Argius and about half a mile from the nearest slopes in the plain, lies Kaisarieh, the capital of the sandjak, and the reputed second or third oldest city in the world, with a mixed population of between 60,000 and 70,000 inhabitants. The sandjak is subdivided into two out-cazas, Devely south, and Indjeson west, the chief towns being Everek and Indjeson respectively, at which places the Kaïmakams reside.

Races.—These are Mahommedan, Armenians, and Greeks; there are no Circassians. The total numbers of males are, as nearly as I can ascertain, these:—Mahommedan, 55,256; Armenian, 10,062; Greek, 12,299.

Religious Sects.—The Mussulman population belong exclusively to the Hambelli sect; of the Armenians, 600 are claimed by the American missionaries as Protestants, and 160 are Roman Catholics, the numbers of the latter having much diminished since the Protestant movement began. The Greeks are nearly all Orthodox; there are, however, a few Protestants.

Number of Houses.

Kaisarieh, city	8,197
,, villages	15,628
Devely, Everek, town	2,393
,, villages	3,518
Indjeson, town	1,649
,, villages	2,334
Total	33,679

Many of the Christians go in for well-built cut stone houses, which have a finished and even elegant appearance, but the Moslems prefer the old tumble-down hovels of rubble masonry and mud.

Employment of the People.—The higher Moslem class, Beys and Agas, are either employed in official capacities or are seeking for the same. These persons exercise a most baneful influence on Government matters by obstructing justice and seeking to turn everything to their own advantage; they harass and oppress the poor, whose dread of their power is most abject, and bully the Christians whenever they get the chance. A few do business in a small way, corn merchants, yellow berry agents, &c. The lower Moslem population are almost exclusively tillers of the soil. In the towns and larger villages some few are found professing trades, and in Kaisarieh itself there are many copper and iron utensil makers, saddlers, boot and shoe makers, smiths, grocers, and tobacconists, but as a rule all foreign trade is in the hands of the Christians. The agricultural class are an indolent lot, content to do just enough to keep body and soul together and to provide tobacco. The women and children are rather more industrious, the women spinning wool and making rough articles of clothing and attending to household matters, while the children are usually employed collecting dung, which, after a delicate manipulation, serves as fuel. In summer men, women, and children are employed harvesting, which lasts from the beginning of July to the middle of September.

The Christians in Kaisarieh are drapers, chiefly tailors, silversmiths, artizans, or merchants. Many have their families in the villages round Kaisarieh and pursue their several occupations as shopkeepers in Constantinople, Smyrna, or elsewhere, returning for a year or two at long intervals, and eventually settling down at their native place.

Special Industries.—A little carpet manufacture for local demand is carried on in Kaisarieh and Indjeson. Woollen and cotton rough garments for home wear, tanneries, linseed oil manufactory, and a little catgut and dye are made.

Factories.—The only source of production in the district which can be dignified by the name of factory is the Government saltpetre works in this city. The rough petre is extracted from the earth obtained on the outskirts of the city by the inhabitants by a rude process, and sold to the Government at 2½ to 3 piastres the oke; it is then refined by distillation, washing, &c., and sent to Stamboul for powder manufacture. The annual amount produced is about 80,000 okes, valued at £T. 4,000.

Mines.—None. At Farash, an isolated village, &c., in the Nigdeh Sandjak, but belonging to Kaisarieh, iron is found, I am informed, in large quantities. The villagers reduce it by a rough smelting process, and dispose of it at 2 piastres per oke in Kaisarieh and other accessible places; it is soft and easily worked into horse-shoes, nails, and rough iron work generally. There are four furnaces at Farash, the owners paying 100 piastres each per annum to Government, and are not limited in the amount produced.

At Ghessi, three hours east of Kaisarieh, plaster of Paris is produced and sold in the villages, &c., at ⅛ to ¼ piastre the oke. It is worked by a Greek, who pays 32,000 piastres annually to the Government for the right, and the average produce is 800,000 to 900,000 okes.

There is said to be coal on Argius, but I am unable to learn anything definite about the fact.

Rate of Wages.

	Piastres.		
Unskilled labour	4 to 5	per diem.	
Carpenters	10	16	,,
Masons	5	10	,,
Builders		10	,,
Painters	8 to 12		,,
Shoemakers	20	40	per week.
Smiths	4	8	per diem.
Female servants	20	50	per month.
Male servants	10	50	,,

(The two last have food and clothing.)

Character of Food and Clothing.—The food of the lower classes consists generally of "bulghur pilaff" (boiled pounded wheat), with a little grease or meat, "yaourt" (curdled sour milk), "pide" (unleavened bread), and cheese. They live largely on fruits and vegetables in the summer, and in the winter "pasterma" (jerked meat) is consumed. The cost of living in this style can scarcely exceed 2 piastres a-day. The Christians live better as a rule, but rigid economy is the order of the day in the eating way, preferring to spend their surplus cash in fine clothes and ornaments and in "raki."

The clothing of the lower classes is very simple. Their underclothing is a rough unbleached calico made locally, while Manchester prints of very gaudy patterns are used externally; in winter quilted garments and coarse woollen coats and cloaks are worn, and those who can afford it affect cloth fur-lined pelisses reaching down to the heels. Many of the Christians dress in the European style except the headdress, which for all classes and sexes remains the "fez."

Manners and Customs.—The only exception I have noticed in the manners and customs of the people here is that in Kaisarieh itself the Christian women wear a shawl over the head, fastened or drawn together with the hand tightly under the chin, leaving just the face exposed.

Wishes and Aspirations and Feeling towards the Government.—The general feeling among all classes is, I think, one of indifference, the result of hope deferred, of promises made and not fulfilled, and of an original extravagant notion of foreign intervention in which they have been disappointed; they are now content to wait the outcome of events, to do nothing themselves for the good of their country, and even to offer passive resistance to anything being done for them. The Moslem officials are almost without exception corrupt, and as long as they can make a "good thing" out of their posts, and increase their often inadequate salaries, they care for little else. The poorer classes are so ignorant that, although in a way habitually discontented, they are really incapable either of aspirations or feelings towards the Government; there can, however, be no doubt that the Moslems would one and all rally round the Prophet's banner if incited to do so against any foreign nation, and would fight to the death, and neither money nor the prestige of a foreign Power would have the slightest effect upon them if incited the other way by their own people, priests and others. Although unpatriotic as far as concerns the welfare and future of their own country, they are easily roused if an appeal is made to their fanaticism. The Christians are discontented, and are, both Armenians and Greeks, patriotic in themselves as against the Turk, and keenly jealous of each other. The Armenians, while possessing the "Armenia" craze, would be the last to leave the source of their gains and betake themselves to Armenia, while it is difficult to know what the Greeks do wish for exactly, but the welfare of Greece is a source of much interest at present. They both wish for a larger share in the administration of affairs, and are keen to serve in the army and police. While realizing to a certain extent the advantages and necessities of education as a means of wealth, they prefer to have it brought to their children, and are with difficulty induced to pay anything towards it. The Christians have, in fact, had all the spirit knocked out of them years ago, they suffer from nervous apprehension, and will hardly dare to leave their villages except in company; they remember all outrages, &c., which occurred years ago as if they happened but yesterday, while, unless pressed to admit it in detail, they fail to recognize that their position has in any way improved. They are a mean-spirited, cringing community, to which lying and cheating are second nature. Just as the Turks are corrupt, so the Christians lie and cheat. I am speaking now of the tradesmen of Kaisarieh particularly.

Trade and Commerce.

Exports and Imports.—A tabulated statement of the exports and imports of this sandjak, being an average of the last five years, compiled by one of the leading Armenian merchants of this city, is given in Appendix. During this period I am informed that trade has been either stationary or retrograde, and there appears no signs of revival at present.

Domestic Trade.—Articles of food and clothing, household necessaries such as rugs, quilts, utensils, rough pottery, coverings for the feet, saddlery, beasts of burden, sheep, cattle.

Market Prices.

	Piastres.
Mohair, inferior	19 to 22 per oke.
Wool, greasy	5½ 6½ „
„ washed	11 11½ „
Cotton (from Adana)	8 8½ „
Sheep and goat skins	10 14 per skin.
Hides, dry	9 10½ per oke.
Morocco leather	25 35 per skin.
Woollen druggot	6 12 per arshin (27 in.)
Cotton material, rough	1 1½ „ „
Woollen cloth	15 „ „
Saddles, pack, for horses	95 to 135 each.
Boots, red Morocco	30 per pair.
Shoes	20 „

Rugs, various, according to quality.

Animals—	£ T.
Camels	10 to 25
„ for breeding	10 12
Horses	4 20
Mules	10 20
Asses	1 4
„ Cyprus	½ 15
Oxen, draught	10 15 per pair.
Cows	2 4 each.
Buffaloes, draught	15 25 per pair.
Sheep, for slaughter	40 100 piastres each.
Goats	25 60 „ „

Food, &c.—	
Bread, unleavened	1 per oke.
Flour, wheaten	1½ „
Wheat, hard and soft	¾ to 1 „
Barley	1 „
Rye	¾ „
Meat, mutton and goats'	2½ to 2¾ „
Rice	3½ 4 „
Butter (bad)	12 „
Cheese (bad)	4 to 14 „
Pasterma (jerked meat)	6 7 „
Wine, red and white, inferior	4 7 „
Raki	4 15 „
Five eggs	1 „
Sugar	7½ „
Coffee	14 „
Salt	3 „
Suet	10 „

Fruit and vegetables very cheap.

Charcoal	35 per donkey-load.
Wood	6 „ „

N.B.—The piastre equals 2⅓*d.*; the oke equals 2¾ lbs. avoirdupois.

Tariffs.—None. The Municipal Council of Kaisarieh impose certain duties as follow:—2 piastres per head for cattle slaughtered, ½ piastre for sheep and goats, 2½ per cent. on the sale of horses, &c., in the bazaar. A charge at the rate of 3 paras per bâtman of 6 okes is made on heavy goods; this was sold this year for £ T. 1,115. The money thus collected is allowed to accumulate instead of being devoted to the various improvements required in the town.

Banks.—An Agricultural Bank under Government supervision was started about ten years ago; the capital was raised by levying a tax of 15 piastres on every pair of oxen in the Kaisarieh Caza; the sum thus raised amounted to 115,000 piastres to be given out in loans to the agricultural classes at the Government rate of 12 per cent. per annum. The Municipal authorities lent the Bank about £ T. 4,000 at the same rate. Others besides the peasants seem to have benefited by it. One security was required, or the produce, &c., of the lands. The Bank is still in existence, but having been almost ruined by paper currency, transacts very little business.

Usury.—But little is done in the money-lending line. Generally speaking, peasants in times of pressing necessity can obtain money in very small quantities from Christians and others on the security of their crops, &c., at high rates of interest, from 15 to 25 per cent. The lenders either take their chance of the borrower paying more than the legal rate by promise, or insert a larger figure in the "IOU" than advanced. In the case of a Christian making a loan, two Mussulman witnesses are sometimes obtained, as, should the matter come before the Law Court, Christian evidence is not sufficient; in this case also only the legal rate of interest is awarded.

Agriculture.

Nature of the Soil.—Generally speaking the soil is very poor, with no consistency, nothing but dust and stones; on some of the high land it has a darker appearance in places, but even then it is more a loamy dust than earth. Except an occasional thunder-shower, no rain falls apparently from June to November, and the intense heat, often reaching 100° Fahrenheit in the shade during July and August, gives the land a parched-up, arid appearance, which is only relieved in and around the villages by the verdure produced by artificial irrigation, fruit-trees, and vineyards. Once clear of Kaisarieh and its surrounding villages, and from high ground, the eye can wander in almost every direction without descrying other than the never-ending undulations of yellow hills; Argius alone relieves the hideous monotony of the desolate and treeless scene.

Proportion of Land under Cultivation.—From a rough survey I have made of the sandjak, I estimate the area at 2,925 square miles. The official Returns show 2,291,775 donums as under cultivation, but it must be remembered that this includes all land cultivated. As a rule, corn land is only cultivated once in two years, and this would reduce the amount by at least one-third for the total amount under cultivation in one year; doubtless also some of the land returned as under cultivation is allowed to remain idle, but not much. Taking the total as given, I estimate the proportion of land under cultivation at one-quarter.

Nature and Yield of Crops.—The cereals are wheat, barley, rye, and a little maize. The average yield varies from 3 to 6 to 1 in a moderate year, to 6 to 10 to 1 in a good year, the season depending on the amount of rain in the spring and early summer; wherever practicable, artificial irrigation is employed.

Vegetables sufficient for local demand, which is considerable, are grown round Kaisarieh and in the villages, but from the poor soil and irrigation, although fine in appearance, are watery and flavourless. They are potatoes, cabbage, vegetable marrow, onions of all sorts, cucumbers, spinach, beetroot, parsley, lettuce, egg-plant, bamia, French beans, broad beans, tomato, radishes, pea, pumpkin, earth-apples, pickling pepper, linseed, hemp, carrots, turnips, cresses, mangel wurzel.

Fruits, also flavourless as a rule, are apples, apricots, grapes, water and musk melons, pears, mulberries, plums, quince, cherries, almonds, walnuts.

Animal Produce.—The milk of cows, sheep, and goats, which, from the indifferent diet these animals get, is so inferior that the butter and cheese made therefrom is almost uneatable. Honey, eggs.

Public Works.

Roads.—There are no roads properly so called in the Kaisarieh Sandjak, only tracks. In marshy places one occasionally come across a few hundred yards of execrable paving fit only for camels, but, as a rule, nothing whatever is done to facilitate traffic in any way. In summer arabas can make their way northwards to Sivas, Yusgat, and Angora, but wheeled transport is impracticable in other directions outside the sandjak. The principal outlet for the district is south to Messina, and considering the small chance Kaisarieh has of being immediately affected by any railway projects, it is of the utmost importance that a good road should be made in this direction. An engineer has been here for the last seven months, and within the last few days a few men have been placed at his disposal, and the road has been commenced. The system is forced labour, each man giving four days' labour per annum. There is no reason why, with energy and action, the road should not be completed up to the limits of the sandjak in a year or eighteen months, but the Government seems quite powerless to get the men together, and there is the usual indifference, if not passive opposition, on the part of the authorities to anything being done. There is no money available; substitutes are allowed, but not a money equivalent, which, as it would doubtless be squandered, may be right, but it is difficult to see how those portions of the road which require skilled labour are to be executed without paid labour. There is a talk now of letting it out to contractors who are to be bound over to complete a given portion in a certain time under heavy penalties; of course these contractors will make their own arrangements as to the work, the Government merely giving them the four days' labour allowed by law, if they choose to accept a money equivalent, that is their affair. As I see no hopes of any real progress being made as long as the matter rests in the hands of the Government, I think this is a good arrangement; the year is now too far advanced for much to be done; it is something

to have made a start, however, and I hope to be able to report next year that some real progress has been made, not only in this sandjak, but also throughout the route in the Nigdeh (Konieh Vilayet) and Adana districts. There are no difficulties in this sandjak; the route lies through Indjeson and Kara-hissar, and is level throughout; I hope shortly to have an opportunity of inspecting the other portions, and of urging the authorities at Nigdeh and Adana to take the matter in hand.

Railways.—There are none.

Canals.—None other than the small water-channels used for irrigation purposes, which are made and repaired by the parties interested.

There is a talk of bringing water from the Sumantia Su to irrigate the Kaisarieh Plain and villages *en route*; the rough estimate is from £T. 20,000 to £T. 30,000, and the engineer is shortly to report on the feasibility of the plan; this will take him away from the road, and as there is no money nor spirit of adventure will be unproductive of issue.

Bridges.—Over the Kizil Irmak, on the road to Angora, there is a roughly paved substantial stone bridge of ancient construction, in good repair; about four hours higher up the same river, on the road to Boghaslian and Yusgat, there is another fairly good stone bridge; and just outside the sandjak, over the same river, above Palas, a third, also in a good state. Over the Sumantia Su there are three bridges, all of wood, and more or less untrustworthy. What bridges there are over the lesser streams and rivulets are in a very bad state.

Telegraphs.—Kaisarieh is the only telegraph station in the sandjak. There are two outlets, one to Boghaslian and Yusgat, and the other to Urgub, Nevschehr, Nigdeh and Konieh. Messages are only sent in Turkish, and the forwarding and delivery are extremely unsatisfactory and slow. Had the Eastern Telegraph Company's offer been accepted there can be no doubt that, under efficient management, the public would have soon appreciated the benefits of the telegraph and availed themselves of them; as it is, the telegraph is but little used, except for Government messages. This is a country peculiarly suitable for telegraphs, and it can only be on this account that messages are ever got through at all; nothing can be worse than the maintenance of the lines, instruments, and batteries, a complicated system of switches only causes delays, which the slackness of the clerks and the utter want of organization in offices are sufficient in themselves to render this Department inefficient and practically almost useless.

Posts.—There is only a properly organized postal service in one direction to and from Constantinople. Letters are delivered on Monday which leave Constantinople eight days previously; the outgoing letters leave on Wednesday afternoon viâ Indjeson and Nevschehr to Angora, and thence through to Constantinople, and the service is very regular. Letters for the north, to Sivas, and letters to Adana and other places, have to take their chance, and are usually intrusted to chance travellers for transit.

General.

System of Land Tenure.—Most of the cultivated land in the Kaisarieh Sandjak is "mulk," the absolute private property of individuals, originally acquired from the State, without purchase, on the simple condition that it should not be allowed to remain uncultivated for more than three years in succession without good cause, failing which it should revert to the State, but even this reservation is not enforced. Perhaps about a fourth is what is called "mevcoufi" or "vacouf" land, i.e., land allotted by the State or bequeathed by private individuals to the use of the Church, or allotted by the State to private individuals as a reward for distinguished services, &c.

Taxation.—1. The tithe, or one-tenth of the produce of the soil. This is usually sold by auction by villages, or a collection of villages together, to the highest bidder. The extortions and rascality of these "multezims" (tithe-buyers), or their agents, are too well known to need description.

In the Kaisarieh Caza they are trying the new system of a fixed sum per annum, land being classified as first, second, or third rate, very good, and very bad, and rated accordingly, by an average taken from the last five years. By this means every man knows exactly what he has to pay, and there is no delay in gathering in the crops. There cannot be the slightest doubt that this is an immense boon to the agricultural class, and should be universally adopted; already they are beginning to comprehend that it will be to their advantage to farm well; although the season has been only moderately productive, and the rating therefore appears high, they appreciate the new system; the crops were threshed out and stored without let or hindrance nearly a

month ago, while outside the caza in many places it is still exposed, waiting for the "multezims." The contrast was most striking, and there is a general wish among the poorer classes for an extension of the system. In the case of landlords whose farms are worked for them there is some confusion; in future the landlords will be responsible for the tax, and the farmers this year know not whom or what to pay; the landlords are, I believe, responsible, and will have to arrange the matter themselves with their tenants, who will be little likely therefore to derive any benefit from the new system. That there will be great opposition to it on the part of the Beys and Agas is but natural; they will now have to pay their own share instead of, by assisting the "multezims" in their extortions, escaping from or evading their own liabilities, and being themselves tithe-buyers, they will naturally do all in their power to prevent the introduction of a system which will deprive them of a means of gain. Whether their opposition will be effectual remains to be seen, but it is at least probable that it will have the effect of delaying the general application of this much-needed reform.

2. "Emlakh" (house and land tax) at the rate of 4 piastres per 1,000 on the value of such property. In the case of all shops and houses valued at 20,000 piastres and over, double this rate is charged.

3. Income tax, 3 per cent.

4. Military exemption tax, computed at the rate of 27 piastres per head for every Christian male; the collection of the total is placed in the hands of the head Christian of the village or quarter. Various Hatts and Decrees have been brought out from time to time, I believe, to the effect that priests, insane people, invalids, &c., and persons outside the limits of from 15 to 60 years of age are exempt from this tax, but there is generally a proviso, to the effect that the Imperial Treasury is not to suffer by these gracious commands, which practically annuls all that precedes. The tax is computed from the total number of males at 27 piastres per head, and this sum the Christian agent has to collect; some men may be absent, or may have disappeared for years, but unless proof of death is forthcoming he is included in the total, and some one has to find the 27 piastres. The Government may say that the Christians are at liberty to collect the amount in any way they please, that they may make their own exemptions, and so forth, but this is impossible without special legislation.

Turks drawn to serve in the army may pay £T. 50 as the price of exemption, or a less sum if a substitute is provided.

5. "Inam" (sheep and goat tax) at 3½ piastres per head, produced this year 513,624 piastres.

6. Wines and spirits pay a tithe.

7. "Kitri" (gum) and yellow berries pay also a tithe. This is farmed, and this year yellow berries fetched 141,000 piastres. Taxes which are not farmed are received by the person appointed in each village by the Council of Elders for the duty, and by him transferred to the tax-collectors or zaptiehs, who are sent round at odd times when money is required, and who convey it to the district head-quarters. A head tax-collector, with fourteen assistants, was appointed this year, their pay depending on the amount collected, and they are supposed to perform their duties without escort, but I hear that the system was not successful, and that in the out-cazas this duty is again intrusted to zaptiehs.

Arrangements for Public Safety.—In the towns and larger villages there are zaptiehs, and there are one or two guard-houses in the sandjak, where a few of these useless individuals are posted, but, as a rule, the public have to take their chance on the roads, and by travelling in company and carrying arms they are generally safe. Occasionally a robbery or murder occurs, and then a party of zaptiehs or a handful of cavalry, of which about 100 are stationed here, are sent out to make a demonstration in the direction of the occurrence, when they become a burden on the villagers and succeed in doing nothing. On the whole, there is marvellously little brigandage in the district, the fact being that there are no Circassians and very little traffic of the kind to attract robbers; still great apprehension exists, and exaggerated or false accounts occasionally reach one's ears. There is nothing like an organized band of robbers in the neighbourhood; the Circassians from Ak-serai or Azizieh are credited with making a raid now and then and carrying off a horse or two, but even their temerity has never resulted in an attack on such a tempting booty as the Post.

Police Force.—The police force is distributed as follows: Kaisarieh city, 1 Major, 2 Captains, 2 First Lieutenants, 2 Second Lieutenants, 7 Sergeants, 13 Corporals, 33 foot, and 26 horse privates; total, 86. Kaisarieh villages, 9 foot and 16 mounted; total, 25. Indjeson Caza, 3 foot and 11 mounted; total, 14—or 143 in all; and,

considering the state of the country, this number, with the small force of cavalry, should be quite sufficient to insure public security.

The salaries are: Major 800 piastres, Captain 100 piastres, First Lieutenant 300 piastres, Second Lieutenant 150 piastres, Sergeant 120 piastres, Corporal 110 piastres, Private 100 piastres, for mounted men; and First Lieutenant 250 piastres, Second Lieutenant 150 piastres, Sergeant 100 piastres, Corporal 90 piastres, Private 80 piastres, for foot—per month. There is an allowance of boots and clothing, which is either so bad that it soon becomes ragged, or else has not been regularly supplied; the appearance of the men is most discreditable, and they often provide their own clothing. There is also a money allowance in lieu of rations and forage, which varies with the prices of bread, barley, &c.; it is supposed to provide three-quarters of an oke of bread (2 lbs.) and 3 okes of barley, and some chopped straw.

The mounted men are employed to collect taxes, to bring up witnesses, to carry official letters, and to act on Post and general escort duties. The foot zaptiehs are employed chiefly as office messengers, to bring coffee, make cigarettes, &c., as sentries at the prisons and public offices, to hunt up witnesses, and patrol the streets after dark.

Their pay is about two months in arrear.

Administration of Justice.—About the beginning of this year an entire reorganization of the Law Courts was effected by the newly-appointed Mufettish (Inspector) for the Angora Vilayet. There are three Courts:—

1. Bidnet Hukukn, or Civil Court.
2. Jinaet, or Criminal Court.
3. Tidjaret, or Commercial Court.

1. The Civil Court. President, the Judge, assisted by four members, two Mahommedan and two Christian. This Court is subdivided, religious cases in which Moslems only are concerned being dealt with, if the litigants desire, by the Judge alone (assisted by the Mufti if necessary), according to the law of the Koran or Scheri. Cases in which Christians only are concerned, or a Christian and a Mahommedan, or Mahommedans only, if they desire it, are brought before the Judge and members of the Court, and are decided according to civil law and the Mejeh. This Mejeh is a compilation from the Koran, commenced long ago and being constantly added to; it is an attempt to reconcile the inconsistencies and contradictions of the Koran, I believe, arranged so as not to clash with existing civil laws and to present the Koran in a practical and acceptable form to the people; but the Turks have never got over their aversion to the laws of man, and would hail with rapture the total abolition of this side of the Bidaet Hukuku. The proceedings are in public, and decisions are arrived at usually by consultation, but the Judge has the power of pronouncing a sentence contrary to the opinion of the majority.

2. Jinaet, or Criminal Court. Vice-President appointed from Stamboul, and four members, two Mahommedan and two Christian. This Court tries all cases brought before it in public, either by calling witnesses, or by written evidence taken in the presence of one of the members by a clerk and read out, or by both, and a verdict is arrived at in accordance with the opinion of the majority; the verdict, with any remarks the Court may think necessary, and all papers referring to the case, are then submitted to the Judge, who eventually pronounces sentence in open Court.

3. In the Commercial Court the President is a Christian, assisted by six members, three Christian and three Mahommedan. The proceedings are similar to those of the Criminal Court, but sentence is pronounced by the President without reference to the Judge.

In the first instance, a statement of the cases in writing is laid before the Judge, who decides in which of the three Courts it is to be tried; formerly this power was in the hands of the Mutessarif.

Four of the members of the Commercial Court were elected by the merchants of Kaisarieh for two years; they can then be re-elected, but cannot serve for more than four years in succession. The President and two of the members are appointed from Constantinople.

The members of the Criminal Court were selected by the Mufettish, Mutessarif, Judge, and the Mudaiomoum.

The members of the Civil Court were elected by the people. The Idaré Medjliss selected twelve names, and the list was presented to the Council of Elders of each of the villages in the Kaisarieh Caza, who selected eight out of the twelve by voting. From these returns a new list was made, containing the names of the eight who had received the largest number of votes. The original twelve names were also presented to the Idaré Medjliss of each out-caza (not to the villages), who selected eight, and

from these three lists, one from each caza, the names of the eight who received the majority of votes were submitted to the Vali, who selected four as members of the Court. Thus, if all the Councils of Elders in the Kaisarieh Caza voted for a particular man, and neither of the Idaré Medjlisses of the out-cazas voted for him, his name could not be sent up to the Vali, and it would probably be an easy matter to influence the majority in the case of the cazas. At the same time, as the Courts were re-organized, the Mudaiomoum was appointed, a Greek. He seems to be a kind of Public Prosecutor, and is consulted by the Judge on details of law affecting sentences in criminal cases.

The Vice-President of the Criminal Court was suspended nearly a year ago, and no other appointed; the Judge presides both in the Civil and Criminal Court, and work is much in arrear in consequence. I believe he is a clever man, but his two years expires early next year, and this affects his energy. I am told that since the reorganization there are signs of a greater confidence in the administration of justice, but I can get at no details to confirm this, and the statement must be taken at its worth. Personally I see no reason to believe it.

Besides being a restraint on a man's freedom, prison life presents but few inconveniences. At the time of my visit there was a rabble inside of about 150, all Turks, I was informed. These men were doing what they liked, sleeping, smoking, chatting, buying pipes, making head-covers, &c.; a few were in chains, and at the door a single zaptieh half asleep.

Christian evidence is nominally accepted in all Courts, but on account of prejudice they are termed "mukhbir" (informants) instead of "shahid" (witnesses).

The oath is administered by the heads of the religious communities, or their representative. Very often it is necessary to send a zaptieh with the witness some distance to have this done, causing delay and inconvenience which would appear to be quite unnecessary.

Administration of Finance.—The head of this Department is the Mouhassabegi, who is directly responsible to the Defterdar at Angora. He is very reticent on the details of finance, but I think the following is a tolerably accurate estimate of the receipts of this Sandjak:—

1880.

	Piastres.
Kaisarieh Caza (assessment in lieu of the tithes)	1,256,583
Indjesou Caza (tithes)	207,500
Devely Caza (tithes)	612,424
Military exemption tax (Christians)	837,526
Sheep and goat tax	513,024
Wines and spirits	15,612
Income tax .. .. }	2,000,000
House and land tax .. .. }	
Yellow berries	141,000
Kitri (gum)	140,000
Tobacco, salt, and licences	184,388
Plaster of Paris works	32,000
Total	6,000,057

Sanitary.—Notwithstanding the defective drainage arrangements, indifferent water supply, accumulation of dirt and putrefying matter, Kaisarieh City is very healthy. In the summer, during July and August, it is intensely hot, and a large proportion of the inhabitants betake themselves to their vineyards in the mountains, and this, no doubt, contributes to their immunity from epidemic. In the winter there is much snow and cold from about the middle of December to the end of February or beginning of March, the other seasons having a delightful climate.

The villages are also healthy. In some low-lying ones near marshes the usual intermittent fever prevails, but only in a mitigated form. One or two have a reputation for typhoid fever.

The natives get eye diseases, and of late years the Aintab "button" has made its appearance and is on the increase. There seem to be a good many cases of stone in the bladder, one doctor informing me that he had extracted sixty in the last few years, with only one fatal result, but this, I think, must be accepted *cum grano*. Sunstroke is unknown, as is also rabies among the dogs. Small-pox is nearly universal in childhood, but seldom of a virulent character. Vaccination is appreciated even by Moslems. Diarrhœa seems to attack strangers, and is very difficult to shake off; this year it has been generally prevalent.

Commissariat Supplies.—The quantity of wheat, barley, &c., will vary according to

the time of year. It is the custom to keep sufficient on hand to last till the next harvest. Although corn is exported from the sandjak I hear that there is not sufficient grown for its own use, more being received in from Yusgat, &c., than the quantity exported.

An official Return, made in 1878, gives the following numbers:—Horses, 4,130; mules, 6,618; asses, 5,550; cows, 8,674; oxen, 6,161; camels, 152.

I should be inclined to put the asses very much higher, at 15,000 at least.

Sheep and goats number 147,142.

Fuel is scarce at times, most of the wood being brought about 18 hours' distance.

There is no wheeled transport other than the rough bullock-waggon.

Remarks.

After such a short residence I do not know that I am justified in offering any remarks on the condition of Anatolia. The system of government is by this time perfectly well understood, and anything I could say on that head would be but a repetition of what has been said over and over again. I will, however, venture to submit a few remarks, more with the object of recording first impressions than in the hopes of affording information.

Corruption appears to be the real curse of the country. It effectually stifles all progress and reforms, and prevents the impartial administration of the law. The fountain of corruption being at Stamboul, it can only be expected that the drops which fall in the provinces shall be foul. Born and bred in an atmosphere of corruption and intrigue, how can the officials be anything but predisposed to yield to the temptations to which they are exposed? But even were they not so predisposed, supposing that a really enlightened, capable, energetic, and honest man—and I believe a few such are to be found—finds himself in an official capacity, he would be powerless to effect good by reason of his surroundings. He comes among a rascally crew of Beys, Agas, &c., local magnates who are all-powerful in the Councils and with the people, and who will work together to hinder any reform or improvement, because all such must tend to their own discomfiture, and possibly ruin. A newly-appointed official has three courses open to him: he may throw in his lot with the Beys and reap the usual advantages, thus allowing things to remain *in statu quo* or to retrograde; he may hold aloof if his salary is an object, and he cannot bring himself to the degraded position of a corrupt official, and become a non-entity, seeing wrong on all sides and being powerless to prevent it; or he may put his foot down and say, "This state of things shall not continue," which will bring all the local power to bear against him, and certainly result, in a very short space of time, in his dismissal or removal. I have not yet met any one belonging to this latter class. Most officials have paid for their appointments in some way or other, and they mean to stick to them and make what they can out of them. Few men will deliberately cut their own throats. All this, I am aware, is perfectly well known in Europe, but it must be seen, I think, for the evils to be thoroughly appreciated. There would seem to be no sudden way of dealing with those local tyrants. The sudden purification of the fountain is also impossible, but by gradually and almost imperceptibly reducing the area of their action, by a constant pressure from outside, the country may eventually be relieved from the baneful effects of the thraldom under which it now groans. Already, I believe, their power has been curtailed. The introduction of the new system of a fixed money tax instead of the tithe, which will rid the country of the "multezims," those pests of society by whose deeds and actions the falsely-assumed power of the upper classes increases its hold on the uneducated and docile mind—the general introduction of this system will, I say, strike a great blow at their influence. Even now, in this district, where it has been introduced in one caza, the Beys are beginning to be alarmed. By inciting the people against it, and by doing all in their power to oppose it, they are attempting, if not to suppress it altogether, at any rate to retard its development and general extension, but, I trust, ineffectually. The constitution of Assize Courts with European Inspectors would deal a still greater blow at them. Once let the people understand that justice obtains in the land, a belief which will take some time developing, and they would cease to fawn round and servilely submit to their oppressors, and gradually shake off their fetters.

The next point is education. All this corruption among the Turks, their fanaticism, the lying and cheating habits of the Christians, are, I think, in a great measure attributable to ignorance. The Moslems, with the exception of a limited

knowledge of the pernicious precepts of the Koran, may be said to be in utter darkness, while the Christians, notwithstanding the efforts of the American missionaries and others, are very slow in recognizing the necessity of education. By the promise of a Government grant for educational purposes, an opportunity now offers, by seeing that it is literally fulfilled, of placing the education movement on a firm basis. General purely secular instruction, applied equally to all sects under one roof, is what is required, and what is quite practicable to be introduced; but the beneficial results of the blessing of education must be left to time to become recognized.

The power vested in the hands of the religious heads of the Armenian and Greek races of settling cases which in England become matters for the Law Courts—I allude to offences, social and moral, such as bigamy, adultery, breach of promise, divorce, &c.—seems to me to require attention. I am not competent to express an opinion as to whether the time has arrived when these matters could be brought before the ordinary Law Courts, but the effect of the present arrangement can only be that of alienating the respect of the subject from the proper authority by teaching them to look for justice in another direction; it also tends to abuses and scandals in the two Churches.

The only other point I need touch upon is public works; this also, by the promise of a Government grant, should now receive a great impetus. The development of the country and its prosperity would be greatly assisted by the construction of good roads. I cannot imagine that the time has yet arrived when a railway in this district could be opened with any prospect of success; all that is required at present is to make difficult places practicable for wheeled transport, by constructing good bridges and culverts, cuttings, &c.—skilled labour, in fact. Hitherto the want of money has prevented anything being done except work that can be performed by the forced labour, such as the construction of a few miles of macadamized road over easy ground where it is not required, and which is usually abandoned in an unfinished state. Now, with money available much might be done in the direction I have indicated, but I have little hope of such being the outcome of events; there seems to be no desire for improvements in communication, and perhaps at first the money might be devoted to public buildings, such as schools, prisons, and public offices, with more advantage.

The immediate reform required is the reorganization of the police, and I think it would be advisable to make highway robbery and horse stealing capital offences.

Slowly and surely among the Moslems disaffection is taking root in the popular mind; the priests are losing their power, and acknowledge it. Refugees are disappointed, and openly express their disgust, faith in the benevolent intentions of the Padishah is fading away; education, a gentle pressure from outside constantly applied in the right direction to introduce reforms, and, above all, time, may be the means of directing this disaffection, on the side of which is right, to a satisfactory issue—the re-establishment of the Turkish Empire. The question is, Will there be time?

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET, *Lieutenant, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, Anatolia.

Kaisarieh, October 1880.

Inclosure 1 in No. 211.

List of the Villages, Male Population, and Land under Cultivation in the Caza of Kaisarieh, made in 1875, and Summary of the Sandjak.

Names of Villages.	Number of Houses.	Male Population.				Land under Cultivation.
		Armenian.	Greek.	Turk.	Total.	
						Donums.
Argündjik	114	..	..	256	256	8,163
Kumarli	45	..	..	76	76	3,426
Jiresian	101	..	..	233	233	8,393
Jirlouk	247	..	..	710	710	11,384
Dürévenk	69	176	..	7	183	15,404
Bello-Gessi	112	286	..	..	286	4,517
Dursiak	196	28	195	289	512	11,042
Nisé	158	244	..	137	381	3,385
Uskubi	105	..	106	120	226	5,460
Kutchuk-Bürüngus	49	..	..	133	133	9,184
Aghirnas	258	..	138	560	698	48,282
Dimitré	177	..	..	440	440	26,971
Veeksé	60	..	66	94	160	2,671
Ispidem	102	..	..	255	255	6,795
Karaheük	42	..	..	99	99	2,302
Gemmetch	79	..	..	195	195	19,830
Salour	65	..	..	141	141	9,758
Dadasen	38	..	..	85	85	1,604
Horsaut	27	..	..	57	57	5,752
Bürsama	87	..	..	185	185	12,622
Zirvá	77	..	..	115	115	3,128
Sarajik	47	..	..	103	103	6,100
Boyajen	65	..	..	186	186	Included in Kushju
Tchevril	97	..	..	263	263	11,777
Kushju	143	..	..	401	401	30,798
Tash-han	45	..	..	150	150	13,057
Menteshé	51	..	..	142	142	2,347
Hirka	106	..	..	285	285	36,602
Sülüfarli	71	..	..	207	207	3,067
Killissé	90	..	..	263	263	6,741
Tashlik	16	..	61	..	61	29,212
Belloviren	69	112	..	74	186	16,737
Gerson	13	..	..	45	45	Included in Hirka.
Yusitchepné	43	..	..	110	110	Ditto.
Yazir	62	..	..	165	165	5,163
Akin	72	..	..	179	179	17,349
Germelik	71	..	..	200	200	9,854
Ellágenz	16	..	..	31	31	3,630
Keikubat	12	..	..	23	23	9,096
Kalkanjik	35	..	..	87	87	3,303
Kara Kiusk	44	..	..	98	98	7,011
Daduglié	52	..	..	160	160	5,551
Ebitch	76	..	..	189	189	8,530
Obruk	48	..	..	164	164	22,245
Yasmla	133	..	..	354	354	6,629
Hassinjée	65	..	..	105	105	26,907
Koshjaas	45	..	..	116	116	6,741
Ambar	25	..	..	57	57	5,069
Hassan Arpa	14	..	..	29	29	6,781
Mallahadji	68	..	..	196	196	12,146
Himmet-dédé	62	..	..	178	178	4,445
Imaret	89	..	..	257	257	2,360
Mahsémlü	141	..	..	340	340	15,415
Ellregil	32	..	..	67	67	8,910
Vartan	24	..	..	69	69	6,12
Hoibek	107	..	..	295	295	54,636
Yabanó	3	..	..	8	8	3,627
Mollú	259	..	52	613	665	4,987
Ojun-Agatch	81	..	..	207	207	8,405
Mumchisoun	370	377	..	247	624	39,861
Kizik	134	..	..	350	350	54,222
Ayin	72	..	..	244	244	22,880
Kemér	65	..	..	176	176	9,074
Tekukur	170	..	224	290	514	6,356
Emiler	92	..	..	221	221	10,016
Hissardjik	252	..	..	633	633	5,807

Names of Villages.	Number of Houses.	Male Population.				Land under Cultivation.
		Armenian.	Greek.	Turk.	Total.	
						Donums.
Kizilvirmi	330	..	..	809	809	26,722
Surtmé	69	..	..	171	171	7,239
Kiramanli	114	..	..	378	378	2,754
Ispilé	120	..	..	338	338	5,832
Kuru Keupru	81	..	..	265	265	11,706
Akjakaia	256	..	..	599	599	2,946
Sallcuna	95	..	..	275	275	4,754
Süksün	61	..	..	163	163	11,869
Külhi	44	..	..	101	101	2,502
Bosja	90	..	..	272	272	8,271
Yuslé	145	..	..	371	371	17,722
Kaish	39	..	..	102	102	Included in Hadjilar
Tafi-Kebir	51	..	..	131	131	4,852
Tafi-Saghir	32	..	..	96	96	8,711
Horun	105	..	..	310	310	24,708
Deüger	67	..	..	186	186	14,546
Eski-Omerler	39	..	..	102	102	15,104
Ilésma	203	..	158	349	507	2,193
Bey-Deirmeni	18	..	..	39	39	5,907
Fehimlé	41	..	..	97	97	3,559
Saridanishment	11	..	..	46	46	Included in Deüger.
Baïram Hadji	80	..	..	179	179	9,373
Yukari-Hassinli	20	..	..	51	51	12,409
Ashá-Hassinli	38	..	..	115	115	
Tahirini	23	..	..	62	62	1,664
Hadjilar	574	..	..	1,558	1,558	35,286
Effkéré	381	845	..	162	1,007	2,101
Gessi	274	11	78	466	555	3,152
Manchisoun	372	708	..	410	718	7,210
Sinji-déré	595	..	1,121	132	1,256	13,199
Talass	2,303	2,240	2,396	1,173	5,808	9,414
Ghérmir	1,214	958	1,476	489	2,923	8,194
Tauluson	573	182	314	699	1,195	1,583
Enderlik	684	..	1,264	67	1,331	6,226
Erkilet	731	200	306	1,385	1,981	16,451
Kaisarieh (City)	8,137	7,288	1,369	13,714	22,341	91,381
	23,765	13,345	9,296	38,686	61,327	1,209,477

List of the Villages, Male Population, and Land under Cultivation in the Caza of Devely-Evérék, Sandjak of Kaisarieh, made in 1875.

Names of Villages.	Number of Houses.	Male Population.				Land under Cultivation.
		Armenian.	Greek.	Turk.	Total.	
						Donums.
Aivas-hadjili	86	..	..	200	200	11,169
Elikséit	92	..	..	219	219	7,457
Epchésultan	31	..	..	80	80	4,360
Fitrashé	297	..	545	17	562	4,109
Ferukdin	97	..	..	231	231	9,164
Gézi	94	..	..	220	220	8,042
Germedi	18	..	..	54	54	3,000
Iltépounar	9	..	..	24	24	3,978
Injéson	106	243	..	72	315	34,809
Karajuviran	76	111	89	..	200	3,936
Maduzi	28	..	..	82	82	10,050
Millidéré	11	..	..	28	28	6,100
Sarija	55	..	..	136	136	7,147
Sayadjik	86	..	..	204	204	11,043
Sendérémek	60	..	..	122	122	2,549
Tombac	55	..	..	136	136	2,830
Tchomaldi	155	470	..	25	495	36,350
Arditch	30	..	..	93	93	3,191
Beügé	30	..	..	86	86	11,584
Bekta-shlitchilli	1	..	..	2	2	1,523
Diggir	27	..	..	75	75	4,122
Elmali	5	..	..	19	19	1,720
Elbeyli-tchilli	..	..	..	..	..	3,800
Eshélik-tchilli	..	..	..	..	..	3,500
Géregit	65	..	..	169	168	7,563
Gilgin	122	..	..	328	328	12,413
Gemlé	..	..	..	..	..	1,000
Hadji-pacha-tchilli	..	..	..	10	10	11,598
Hasanajik-tchilli	150	..	..	..	..	104,120
Jébir	37	..	..	98	98	4,428
Joujoun	77	260	..	25	275	25,339
Jeurjin	12	..	..	32	32	2,850
Kusjass	27	..	..	71	71	5,314
Kumber	70	..	..	191	191	8,075
Képas	63	..	..	218	218	10,224
Kesmar	28	..	..	72	72	1,880
Kabakli	47	..	..	119	119	15,720
Kalé	17	..	..	57	57	5,354
Mudin	39	..	..	103	103	7,033
Marajik	24	..	..	88	88	5,128
Pinarli	104	..	..	344	344	18,818
Shihlimah	61	..	..	164	161	17,761
Sansun	60	..	..	153	153	20,339
Sakaltutan	45	..	..	156	156	4,047
Sarimehmetli	42	..	..	93	93	7,720
Suleimanli	82	..	..	216	216	11,975
Shahinelik	71	..	..	205	205	19,970
Sohütli-tchiftü	..	..	..	..	..	2,164
Tarapeen	78	..	..	213	213	13,131
Tchibukéé	14	..	..	42	42	4,638
Tchemaldjikji	35	..	..	118	118	6,237
Tcheuten	62	..	..	218	218	29,845
Tomarza*	550	1,800	..	75	1,935	215,438
Vengidjik	33	..	..	100	100	2,700
Viranjik	32	..	..	83	83	2,760
Yamatchik	20	..	..	73	74	1,328
Devely-Evérék (town)†	2,363	2,736	198	3,529	6,510	41,633
Total of Caza	5,931	5,717	832	9,487	16,036	846,754

* Seat of Mudir.

† Seat of Kaïmakam.

Villages, Male Population, and Land under Cultivation in the Caza of Injéson, Sandjak of Kaisarieh, made in 1875.

Names of Villages.	Number of Houses.	Male Population.				Land under Cultivation.
		Armenian.	Greek.	Turk.	Total.	
						Donums.
Injéson (town)*	1,849	..	1,409	2,252	3,661	51,335
Eudbil	353	..	463	424	887	25,946
Hasaurju	48	..	..	136	136	2,527
Kambelik	31	..	..	86	85	1,556
Viranshehir	32	..	..	75	75	1,865
Sarnajik	25	..	..	56	56	1,840
Karahissar†	1,028	..	..	2,522	2,522	106,700
Shehshaban	100	..	..	218	218	6,374
Kusjú	19	..	..	36	36	5,888
Geurléklis	61	..	..	62	62	3,745
Kallé-keui	121	..	..	268	258	3,097
Murijan	59	..	..	143	143	2,130
Orta-keui	117	..	260	..	260	727
Bash-keui	34	..	..	79	79	2,984
Till	37	..	39	61	100	9,870
Kavak	12	..	..	41	41	1,488
Kestelitch	91	..	..	205	205	2,018
Erdémesin	113	..	..	225	225	2,350
Keshlik	66	..	..	189	189	1,700
Bouquet	7	..	..	16	16	1,402
Total of Caza	3,983	..	2,171	7,083	9,254	235,544

Summary.

Names of Villages.	Number of Houses.	Male Population.				Land under Cultivation.
		Armenian.	Greek.	Turk.	Total.	
						Donums.
Kaisarieh and Caza	23,765	13,345	9,296	38,686	61,327	1,209,477
Dévely-Evérek Kaïmakamlik ..	5,931	5,717	832	9,487	16,036	846,754
Injéson Kaïmakamlik	3,983	..	2,171	7,083	9,254	235,544
Total of Sandjak	33,679	19,062	12,299	55,256	86,617	2,291,775

N.B.—The donum = 40 archins sq.; a lineal archin is between 27 and 28 inches.

* Seat of Kaïmakam.

† Seat of Mudir.

Inclosure 2 in No. 211.

An Average from the last Five Years of the Imports and Exports of Kaisarieh, furnished by one of the leading Merchants.

IMPORTS.

Description of Goods.	Quantity.	Value on Receipt.	Observations.
		£ T.	
Cloth, woollens, &c.	40,000 metres	16,000	Chiefly from Germany.
Longcloths, &c.	30,000 pieces	10,000	,, Manchester.
Prints	20,000 ,,	10,000	,, ,,
Velveteens, silks, and woollens	,,	15,000	,, France.
Cotton, thread, &c.	10,000 rolls	5,000	,, Manchester.
Woollens, Berlin wool, &c.	1,000 ,,	2,000	,, ,,
Glass	500 cases	750	,, France.
Porcelain and glass ware	,,	2,000	,, France and Austria.
Coffee	1,400 bags	6,000	Rio de Janeiro Coffee from Marseilles.
Sugar	10,000 okes	2,500	Dutch, from Marseilles.
Iron	200,000 ,,	5,000	England.
Copper	25,000 ,,	4,000	,,
Petroleum	2,000 cases	1,200	France and England.
Steel	200 ,,	500	England.
Pepper, black	200 bags	500	Marseilles and England.
Tin, for tinning vessels, &c.	6,000 okes	1,000	England.
Tin tacks	500 barrels	500	,,
Candles	1,000 cases	600	,,
Cochineal	3,000 okes	1,500	,,
Dyes and paints	5,000 ,,	3,000	,,
Goats' hair	40,000 ,,	1,200	Marseilles.
Sundries, fancy goods, &c.	,,	15,000	France and Germany.
Tobacco, unmanufactured	111,235 okes	12,242	
Salt	282,672 ,,	3,111	
Soap	50,000 ,,	2,500	From Mersina and Samsoun.
Cotton	100,000 ,,	5,000	From Adana and Samsoun.

EXPORTS.

Description of Goods.	Quantity.	Value on Spot.	Observations.
		£ T.	
Yellow berries	250,000 okes	15,000	
"Kitri" (gum tragacanth)	70,000 ,,	16,800	
Wool	30,000 ,,	1,200	
Goat skins	20,000 skins	2,400	
Sheep ,,	20,000 ,,	1,300	
Hare ,,	60,000 ,,	1,500	Chiefly exported to Marseilles.
Fox ,,	8,000 ,,	800	,, ,, Russia.
Polecat or weasel skins	1,200 ,,	300	,, ,, ,,
Beaver skins	200 ,,	100	
Lynx ,,	25 ,,	50	
Mohair	5,000 okes	1,000	
Goats' hair	6,000 ,,	1,000	
Beeswax	3,000 ,,	500	
Apricot stones	30,000 ,,	1,200	
Salep	3,000 ,,	400	
Cat-gut	50,000 pieces	400	
Opium	200 okes	400	
Narcotic of hemp or bang	200 ,,	400	To Egypt.
Drugget	1,500 pieces	3,000	To Europe and Egypt.
Tobacco, manufactured	27,306 okes	8,192	
Salt	61,824 ,,	772	
Cow hides	90,000 ,,	9,000	To Constantinople.
Pasterma (jerked meat)	360,000 ,,	21,600	,,
Morocco leather	10,000 ,,	5,000	To Smyrna and Constantinople.
Wheat and barley	1,000,000 okes	10,000	To Mersina and Samsoun for export.

			£ T.
Approximate cost of freight from coast—			
Exports	1,221,000 okes	=	21,364
Imports	268,500 ,,		9,872
Total	2,810,400 ,,		31,226

No. 212.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 22.)

(No. 42. Political. Confidential.)

Sir, *Van, November 9, 1880.*

I TELEGRAPHED on the 7th instant to the Ambassador, in cypher, to the following effect:—

"I have been told, confidentially, that Armenians are preparing for revolt, that Czar has promised assistance and wishes movement to begin before winter. This may not be strictly correct, but movement not improbable, as people are getting desperate, and rumours from all sides point to something stirring. Letters received speak also of preparations for rising made in Alashgird by Russian Armenians."

The reasons which induced me to send this telegram are these: Last Saturday Mr. Barnum, one of the American missionaries, told me that a member of one of the Armenian Societies here had confided to one of his assistant preachers that a movement was going on to get arms and to rise against the Turks, that the Czar encouraged this and had promised assistance, and also wished the movement to begin before winter. It was added that the Kurdish disturbance on the Persian frontier had been got up to aid this movement by distracting the attention of the Turks. I do not personally believe that matters have gone so far as this statement would indicate, and no doubt the idea about the Kurdish movement having been got up to help the Armenians is absurd. But I am, nevertheless, fully convinced that there is something going on. I know the hot-headed leaders of the young Armenian party here have been making inflammatory speeches, and that the people are beginning to get desperate at the delay in the promised reforms, and I have already reported, in my despatches No. 34, Political, of the 12th October, and No. 40, Political, of the 2nd November, what I have heard of the proceedings of the Armenians of Tiflis, and my reasons for suspecting that Russian emissaries are at work among the people. Armenians also in the employ of the American missionaries have told them that they have given up all hope of obtaining anything from Europe generally or England, and that all their hope is now centred in Russia. The latter part of my telegram referred to a letter received by my Dragoman from a friend in Bitlis, who says that he has received letters from Alashgird saying that the Russian Armenians are bringing arms into that region and organizing the peasantry into bands.

I confess I am a little sceptical as to the Armenians having sufficient courage to rise of their own accord, and I do not think that they can yet be in possession of a large quantity of arms, but if Russia were to make the least move I am sure they would be up at once.

I have some idea that the Turkish authorities suspect that something is going on, as Samih Pasha told me to-day that there would shortly be here twenty battalions, besides cavalry and artillery, more than one would think to be necessary on account of the Kurdish movement alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 213.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 22.)

(No. 22. Political. Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, November 24, 1880.*

I BEG to inform you that some movement, the nature of which I cannot as yet precisely define, has commenced in the eastern and southern portions of this vilayet.

At present it is confined to the purchase of arms by the Armenian peasantry, and to the propagation of political ideas by certain Armenian teachers and agents who are willing on their people to prepare and be ready, but whether to protect themselves against the Kurds or to assist in an insurrection I am unable at present to decide.

You are probably aware that the Armenians in Russia have, for some little time past, been arming men for some purpose or another, and, as they continue to do so, it may be reasonably supposed that this arming is not objected to by the Russian Government, for otherwise it would have been very promptly suppressed. Of the existence

of this movement there is no doubt. Some of the American missionaries here, who have lately returned from visiting the neighbourhood of Etchmiazin, reported to me that they had themselves met bodies of those volunteers proceeding to Etchmiazin for arms. M. Obermüller, Russian Consul-General, who has just returned from Batoum, confirms their statements, adding that a Committee has been formed at Tiflis for this purpose. He professes ignorance as to the action of his Government with regard to the movement.

The day before yesterday I received information from the Armenian Gregorian Bishop here that fifty armed Armenians had crossed the frontier north of Bayazid. Two companies of Turkish infantry being detached to meet them, they immediately retired, leaving their arms with the inhabitants. If this be true, it would appear to be one of the objects of the Armenians in Russia to supply their brethren in Turkey with arms.

In this vilayet there is a general feeling of insecurity and of impending disturbance, not only eastwards, but towards Chunous and Mush. Even members of the Protestant community in those districts are either sending to Erzeroum, or coming themselves, for the purpose of buying weapons for self-defence.

Towards the end of last month, Major Khansaragan, an Armenian of good family and at present Russian Vice-Consul at Van, come to Erzeroum, having previously visited Mush and the districts between that place and this. After a stay of some days in this city, during which he was particularly well received by all the most influential Armenians, Major Khansaragan returned to Van by way of Mush and Bayazid. This particularly erratic course may have been the mere whim of a traveller, but it is, nevertheless, noticeable that this new state of things began shortly after Major Khansaragan left Erzeroum on his return journey.

Yesterday very reliable intelligence was given me that a Russian official, reported to be a brother of Major Khansaragan's, had appeared at Todoveran, a large village situated in the plain of the Passin, at about six hours' distance from the frontier. He endeavoured to speak with many of the leading men, but was prevented by the presence of some Turkish soldiers. He, however, succeeded, by exhorting them to be "ready," in creating some excitement, not to say apprehension, among the villagers, and the Protestant teacher stationed at the village has sent in to the missionaries here to inquire what they were to be ready for. The only doubtful part of this story is whether the individual was really Khansaragan's brother. But this matters little. He was at any rate a Russian official, and sufficiently well educated to lay and make himself understood in French when the presence of the soldiers forbade his conversing in Armenian.

Were it not for the movement in Russian Armenia and for the presence of Russian agents in this country, I should have been inclined to consider this agitation as an attempt of the Armenians to create a scare, in the hope of bringing their condition more prominently to the notice of the Powers. As it is, I rather believe we are witnessing the first symptoms of that insurrectionary movement of which I have already given you an outline in my despatch No. 19, Political, Confidential.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 214.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, December* 22.)

(No. 68.)

Sir, *Smyrna, November* 20, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following Report on my recent journey from Panderma, on the Sea of Marmora, to this place.

My route lay through the Balikisri Sandjak of the Brusa Vilayet, and the Sarukhan Sandjak of the Aidin Vilayet.

Population.—I propose in another Report to furnish such statistics as I was able to collect with reference to the Sandjak of Balikisri; roughly speaking, the Moslem male population is 87,000, and the Christian 32,000.

The Moslems consist of Turks, Circassians of the Abasekh, Shabsekh, and Obukh tribes; nomads and semi-nomads of more than twenty different families or tribes, of which the Chetmi and Hardal are the principal; and Georgians and Lazis who have recently immigrated.

The Christians are Greeks, Armenians, Protestants, Bulgarians, and Cossacks. There are also a few Jews.

The Turks, or settled Moslems, appear to be of a different type to those of the interior, and have certain peculiarities in their dress; but their mode of life, their character, and daily pursuits are similar to those which I have described in previous Reports. They live, as a rule, on good terms with their Christian fellow-subjects, but recent events, and especially the enrolment of the Redifs which is now going on, has produced a feeling of irritation against the Greek peasantry which may lead to disturbances.

The Circassians belong partly to the immigration of 1866-67, and partly to that of 1878-79 from Roumelia. The old immigrants have settled down as cultivators of the soil, but the new ones are in part still unsettled, and many complaints were made to me of their predatory habits. At one town I was assured by a member of the Council that eight or nine months ago an order was received from Constantinople directing the Kaimakam not to allow the people to make complaints against the Circassians. On the other hand, the Circassians make good, trustworthy zaptiehs; they prove to be steady, willing workmen in the Boracide mines, and if specie has to be sent from one place to another, a Circassian is generally selected to carry it. The Kaimakam of Panderma and the Major commanding the zaptiehs at Balikisri, both Circassians, were well spoken of by every one, and I see no reason to alter the opinion which I have previously expressed, that the Circassians, if governed justly, with a firm hand, would form an element of strength, and not of weakness, to the Ottoman Empire.

Many efforts have been made to induce the nomads to adopt a settled life; houses have been built for them, and force has been in some cases employed, but the only result has been that a certain proportion of them live in houses during the winter, and in tents during the summer.

The Greeks form a very large majority of the Christian population, and on the sea-board they are quietly displacing the Moslems in a manner which I have thought sufficiently interesting to describe in a separate Report.

The Armenians, including a few Protestants, are settled as merchants in Panderma and Balikisri.

The Bulgarians, who appear to have removed from Eastern Roumelia about two hundred years ago, occupy eight different villages. They have retained their language and nationality in the villages, but in the towns they have become lost in the Greek population. Some of the Bulgarians have re-emigrated to Varna, and others expressed their intention of doing so as soon as they could make the necessary arrangements.

The Cossacks, or Russians, who apparently belong to the sect of Old Believers, live in two villages on Lake Manias. They left Russia more than one hundred years ago, but have preserved their language and peculiar costume. They are a quiet, inoffensive people, and earn their livelihood by fishing.

Some idea of the manner in which the various nationalities are intermixed, and of the consequent difficulties the Turks have to contend with in governing the country, may be gathered from the fact that, in a ride of about 7 miles, I passed through a Greek, a Cossack, a Circassian, a Bulgarian, and a Moslem village, in each of which the people preserved their national characteristics.

The condition of the Moslem peasants is the same as elsewhere; they are extremely poor, much oppressed by Government officials and local Notables, and the conscription for the late war has told heavily upon them. It is hardly necessary to draw attention to the loss which the country will experience from the withdrawal of so many recruits from their homes at the present moment; probably not one-half of these men will return.

The state of the Christians is much better, and the answer I generally received to my inquiries was, that they had little to complain of except the insecure state of the roads. This arises from the fact that the extensive commerce of the district is almost entirely in the hands of the Christians, who have thus acquired considerable influence in the chief towns at which the Courts of Justice sit.

Officials.—The higher officials of the sandjak seemed to be well qualified for their posts, with the exception of the Cadis of Panderma and Kemer. The Mutessarif of Balikisri, Raif Effendi, who had only recently been appointed, appeared animated by a desire to improve the condition of his sandjak, and had already shown evidence of energy and capacity. The Cadi was also well spoken of by every one as an honest, capable man, though somewhat old for his post.

Zaptiehs.—The zaptieh force is not strong enough for the sandjak, which is, I believe, the largest in Anatolia. It is two months in arrear of pay; and, though the

cavalry have Winchester rifles, the infantry have often nothing better than flint-lock muskets. The Mutessarif is fully alive to the necessity of a complete reorganization of the force, and he has already applied for permission to commence it; unless, however, money can be found to pay the zaptiehs well and regularly, his efforts will be fruitless

The prisons, especially at Balikisri, are better than those in the interior, but they are far too crowded, and the inmates are allowed to lead the usual idle, useless life of Turkish prisoners. At Balikisri there were over 200 prisoners—from twenty-five to thirty men in each room.

The security to life and property in the Balikisri Sandjak was greater than I had been led to expect. There is no organized system of brigandage, and no bands of robbers. The roads are, however, infested by foot-pads, not unfrequently half-starved refugees, who rob single travellers. The Circassians also steal horses, and carry them off to sell in other sandjaks. The Greeks of Aivali complained much of the insecure state of the roads, especially in the neighbouring Sandjak of Sarukhan, and they attributed this to the appointment of a noted brigand, Aiderli Mustapha, as head of the rural police of Pergamos.

The Courts of Justice and other Councils have the usual bad reputation, and several of the officials and members appeared to be quite unfitted for their positions. The Christians of Panderma complained that, though they were in a majority in the town, and had all the commerce in their hands, they had only one representative on the Municipal Council, whilst the Moslems had three. This is said to have led to considerable manipulation in land questions in favour of the Moslems.

The Assistant Public Prosecutor at Balikisri is a young man who, previous to his appointment, had no experience of law, and his inattention to business was commented upon in the cazas. In the cazas the duties of Public Prosecutor are still performed by the officers commanding the zaptiehs, generally Lieutenants. These men are not competent to perform the delicate duties with which they are entrusted, and, in one instance, the officer acting as Public Prosecutor could neither read nor write his own language.

The refugees, of whom there are about 16,000 in the Balikisri Sandjak, are in process of settlement under the superintendence of Hamdi Pasha, who has been especially appointed for the purpose. During the last two years their sufferings have been terrible and the mortality very great.

Education is making considerable progress amongst the Christians; in every town and village there are schools in which gratuitous education is given, and masters and mistresses are obtained from Constantinople or Greece. The Turks, on the other hand, are still apathetic. In the Rushdiyeh schools a long course of caligraphy occupies most of the time, whilst in the other schools nothing but the Koran is taught.

There is no contrast more striking than that between the Christian and Moslem systems of education, as exemplified in their schools, or one that is more suggestive of the future relations between the members of the two religions. In the one instance, bright, eager faces are seen poring over arithmetical, historical, or geographical class-books, in a well-lighted room supplied with desks, forms, and wall diagrams; in the other a number of children squatted on the floor in a dark, wretched room, swaying their bodies to and fro as they recite verses in Arabic from the Koran, which neither they nor their master understand.

Trade and Commerce.—Balikisri is one of the richest sandjaks in Anatolia, and its produce finds an outlet through the ports of Panderma, Edremid, and Aivali. North of the Mashuk Mountains large quantities of opium are produced, whilst south of the range the principal trade is in olive oil, raisins, and cotton. Commerce is much hampered by the want of good roads, and by the ridiculous Customs Regulations, which levy a duty of 8 per cent. on all exports to other ports in the Ottoman Empire, that on exports to Europe being only 1 per cent. These Regulations lead to an amount of smuggling and cheating at the custom-house which can hardly be realized. Several Greek merchants assured me that Government did not receive one quarter of the proper custom-house dues, and from what I saw and heard I do not think this is an exaggeration. Smuggling is carried on almost openly, and the dishonesty and rapacity of the Custom-house officials is without bounds. The usual process is somewhat as follows:—A man brings a skiff to Port A to embark goods for Port B, both places being in Turkey. At Port A he gives the official 2 or 3 per cent., and receives a permit for Europe which is entered in the custom-house books at 1 per cent.; he then proceeds to Port B and pays the official 1 or 2 per cent. to shut his eyes and allow the cargo to be landed free of duty. The trader thus pays, at most,

5 per cent. instead of 8, and out of this the Government receives 1 per cent., and the Custom-house officials 4 per cent.

The frauds on the salt revenue appear to be very extensive. A very large quantity of salt is used in the treatment of the olives, and, though salt is a Government monopoly, I was told that barely one-fifth of the quantity used was purchased from Government.

In conclusion, I have to inform your Excellency that a scheme has been drawn up for dividing the Sandjak of Balikisri into small nahiés in pursuance of the plan proposed by the Porte in the note of the 4th October. The result of this scheme, if approved, would be to divide the Caza of Panderma, for instance, which at present consists of four nahiés, and has a male population of 15,150, into twelve nahiés, each containing from 1,200 to 1,300 males. Opinion was much divided as to the advantages which would be derived from this subdivision, but the general impression seemed to be that, if properly carried out, it would tend to improve the condition of the peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 215.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 22.

(No. 69.)
Sir, *Smyrna, November 30, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to the remarkable ethnical movement which has been quietly going on, during the last twenty-five or thirty years, on the western sea-board of Anatolia. The result of this movement, which appears to increase in intensity every year, has been in some places the partial, in others the entire, displacement of the Moslem population by Greek colonists from the islands of the Archipelago.

The extent of this displacement may be judged from the following facts:—At Aivali, which was totally destroyed in 1821, and the site of which was allowed to lie waste for nearly thirty years, there is now a flourishing town, purely Greek, of from 35,000 to 40,000 inhabitants. On the adjoining Island of Muskonisi, separated from the mainland by a few hundred yards of shallow water, a town almost rivalling Aivali in importance is rapidly springing up. At Ayasmat, formerly a purely Moslem town, which took a prominent part in the destruction of Aivali, there are now only twelve or fourteen Moslem houses, the remainder being Greek. At Dikeli, where, fifteen years ago, there were only twelve wretched hovels, there are now 500 Greek houses, and a large export trade in valonia and cotton. From Edremid to Smyrna the villages are almost entirely Greek, and I only heard of one large Moslem proprietor. The villages of Burnabat, Hadjilar, Buarbashi, Cokluja, Buja, and Saldikeni, which, fifty years ago, were almost exclusively Moslem, are now almost exclusively Greek, and Smyrna itself has a native Greek population of 82,000, and an Hellenic population of 23,000. Nor is the movement entirely confined to the sea-boards, for at Manisa (Magnesia), and Akshehr (Philadelphia), in the valley of the Hermus, and at Pergamos, in the valley of the Caicus, the Greek population is steadily increasing, whilst the Moslem population is as steadily decreasing.

The Greek colonists are enterprising, intelligent, industrious, naturally endowed with a quick perception, and gifted with a rare commercial instinct. They have an innate love of learning, and amongst none of the subject races of Turkey has such a determined and successful effort been made to provide gratuitous education for the rising generation. Many of the wealthier classes now send their children to Constantinople or Athens to complete their education, and these young men return as doctors, merchants, or schoolmasters, to stimulate others by their example. They have an ardent love and yearning for liberty, a deep-rooted intolerance of foreign rule, and, if the present movement continues for another fifty years, a political question of the highest interest and importance will arise for solution.

It must be added that the colonists exhibit most of the defects of the Hellenic race in their duplicity, their instability of character, their want of truth, their greed of gain, and in the tendency of some of their number to thieving and brigandage, and that the vice of drunkenness prevails in the towns to an extent which is hardly credible.

The town of Aivali is a good instance of the enterprising spirit of the Greek colonists. With the exception of the Turkish officials and a detachment of Nizams, eighty strong, there is not a Moslem in the place. Aivali furnishes a revenue of £T. 70,000 per annum, in return for which the Government does nothing except support a zaptieh force of two cavalry and a few footmen, wretchedly clothed and armed. The Greeks have, however, been allowed considerable latitude in the management of their own affairs. They have organized a police force of sixty men to protect the olive gardens, and a night watch of fifteen men to patrol the town after dark. This force is purely Greek, and costs the town £T. 2,000 per annum. There is also a fire brigade of eighty men, with four small hand engines, supported at a cost of £T. 200 per annum. A sum of £T. 1,400 per annum is devoted to education, and great care is taken to secure competent masters and mistresses from Athens. There is a Gymnasium, in which French, Turkish, and ancient Greek are taught, besides mathematics, history, and geography; a higher girls' school, in which French is taught; several smaller boys' and girls' schools, and a "Kindergarten" on the most approved model. The town has twelve churches, a large hospital, 2,000 shops, and two hotels. Three steam and ninety hand presses are employed in the production of olive oil, there are several soap manufactories, about twenty windmills, and a fleet of more than 100 fishing boats engaged in catching octopi and fish for the Constantinople and Smyrna markets. There are also innumerable cafés and stills, in which the celebrated mastic of Aivali is made. The trade has latterly increased to such an extent that a Company has contracted with M. Dussot to make a canal 1,500 metres long, 44 metres wide at top, and 6 metres deep, so as to allow large vessels to enter the port. Greek alone is spoken, and even Government business is almost entirely transacted in Greek. The Kaïmakam is a Cretan, the Cadi an Albanian from Argyrocastro, and the members of all the Councils are Greek. In the Courts of Justice the witnesses give their evidence in Greek, and all discussions are in the same language, though the *procès-verbaux* and the sentences are kept in Turkish. There is an appearance of life and activity in Aivali such as I have only seen, in Turkey, at Constantinople and Smyrna.

The Greek movement is of so much interest that a few remarks on its origin and progress will not be out of place.

One result of the Greek war of independence was increased security to life and property on the islands (Turkish) of the Archipelago and on the western coasts of Anatolia; and the Crimean war, and the action of the European Consuls after it, effected a still further improvement. Under these conditions the population of the islands increased to such an extent that the soil was not able to support it, and the people were obliged to emigrate. The natural outlets for this emigration were the rich coast plains and fertile valleys of Western Anatolia, and the number of emigrants who have passed into the Aidin Vilayet during the last forty years has been estimated as high as 200,000.

In the struggle for existence which is openly, though quietly, going on between the Greeks and Moslems, the advantages are all on the side of the Christians. The Greek marries young, and, living under more favourable conditions than the Moslem, manages to raise his family. He is shrewder, better educated, and suffers less from official robbery than his neighbour, and is not liable to conscription. The Moslem, on the other hand, rarely raises a large family; this is due, amongst the town population, to the extensive practice of abortion and infanticide, and, amongst the peasantry, to the hardship of the peasant life, and to the want of trained midwives and skilled medical attendance. It is probable that at least one-half of the peasant children die before attaining their first year. The wear and tear of life is also greater amongst the Moslems, owing to the conscription and their employment as muleteers, zaptiehs, &c. The Moslem is apathetic, and want of education unfits him for his struggle with the Greek.

The process of displacement is somewhat as follows: a Greek arrives in a Moslem village, and commences life as a small tradesman. He gradually grows rich whilst the peasants become poor; eventually he is joined by friends or relatives, and the poverty of the peasants increases, until a succession of bad harvests forces them to part with their lands and move further inland. Amongst the wealthy Moslems the process is much the same; a Bey who formerly took what he wanted, without payment, is now obliged to borrow money from a Greek, at 25 or 30 per cent., to marry his children and entertain his guests. The money is never repaid, and the debt increases until he finds himself compelled to part with his lands. In nearly every town Moslems are now to be found, in a state of poverty, who a few years ago were comparatively wealthy men. If land is for sale anywhere it is a Greek who buys it, not a Moslem.

There is no settled plan of colonization, the displacement of the Moslems is the result of natural causes, and the Greeks hardly seem to realize what they are doing. The Moslems are apathetic, and the Turkish officials, when their attention is called to the movement, merely say "What can we do? It is kismet." None the less a great change is taking place in the country which cannot be ignored in any consideration of the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 216.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 22.*)

(No. 677.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 17, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 673 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Assistant Richards on the subject of the late Armenian riot at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 216.

Mr. Richards to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Sivas, November 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, with reference to the Armenian riot of which previous mention has been made to your Excellency both by Mr. Chermside and myself, that on the 18th instant several arrests were effected by the police in accordance with instructions received from the Vali. Among those arrested was one boy, 14 years of age, who was hurried, with rather unnecessary violence, from school, without any previous information being given to the schoolmaster, who came to me the next day in great indignation to complain of the affront put on him, as he insisted was the case. He asserted, not, I believe, without reason, that the seizure of a boy in a schoolroom during class hours was an illegal proceeding, the proper mode of procedure in such a case being to apply to the master for permission to take the boy into custody, at the same time producing an order for arrest. Permission being given, the arrest might be made, any show of violence being altogether unnecessary. I subsequently ascertained from the Vali that the boy was only wanted to give evidence against an elder brother, there being no proof of his personal complicity in the riot.

In another case a man, a carpenter by trade, who had been out for a walk with seven or eight companions a mile or so outside the city, and who, on his return, stopped a short time as a spectator in front of the Vali's house towards the close of the riot, was arrested on the charge of having broken some of the windows, and has now been in prison a week, whereas of the rest in whose company he was the whole time not one has been arrested or even suspected. When brought before the Juge d'Instruction he asked to be allowed to call his companions as witnesses, but the application was disallowed, he being told that it was an easy matter enough to get half-a-dozen Armenians to swear to anything, whereas they had a strong proof against him. He was not, however, confronted with the witness making the allegation.

Among others who are now in prison on suspicion of complicity in this affair are a certain Antronik Effendi, a merchant of some standing and good reputation, against whom there is not a shadow of evidence worthy the name, and Ghynossian Effendi, one of the first merchants in Sivas, and a man of hitherto unstained character. The latter, as your Excellency may remember from the mention of the incident made by Mr. Chermside, was the gentleman who came forward during the riot and persuaded the Vali to retire within doors as the sight of him only irritated the mob, and then did his best to disperse the rioters, when, a stone striking him on the head, he was obliged to return to his house close by. Unadvisedly, when summoned before the

Juge d'Instruction, he refused to answer the charges brought against him of having incited the mob to an outbreak, on the ground that, as the Vali was the prosecutor in the suit, he (the Vali) should bring an action against him personally, but that otherwise he refused to recognize the legality of the proceedings. He was accordingly imprisoned for contumacy and contempt of Court, to which decision his refusal to answer the questions put to him by the Mustantik (Juge d'Instruction) had certainly given some colouring.

Leaving out of the question the antecedents of M. Ghynossian, which should be sufficient guarantee for the groundlessness of the charge brought against him, the mere fact of his having received a violent blow on the head in his laudable effort to disperse the mob would seem to an unprejudiced mind to be sufficient evidence of his entire innocence. Of the unadvisedness of the course he subsequently pursued in refusing to answer the questions put to him by the Mustantik there cannot be two opinions, but that the fact of his arrest on such a charge, after behaving as he had done, was an unworthy affront, I think is equally clear.

As regards Antronik Effendi, I can only say, having read a certified copy of the evidence produced for and against him, that the charge of complicity in his case is equally unfounded and unjust.

In the first few cases the examination of the suspected individuals was carried on by the Vali, aided by the Adlié Mufettishi (Inspector of Justice), the Pasha commanding the Redifs, and two or three of the Presidents of the different Courts, constituting a Court of Inquiry, which, to say the least of it, was entirely without precedent, and excited considerable indignation here; the prevailing idea being that it was tantamount to a court-martial, and therefore an unwarrantable and unconstitutional proceeding on the part of the Vali, who presided in the double character of accuser and Judge, and sometimes, indeed, of witness. However, as this Court of Inquiry only sat for two days, there is no longer any ground for complaint on the score of illegality of procedure.

Your Excellency will readily conceive that these and other incidents in the trial have had the effect of causing considerable excitement and ill-feeling among the Armenians, who deplore that there is no hope of their getting justice done them, that the innocent are suffering for the guilty, and that the telegrams which they had dispatched to the Patriarchate asking for counsel and assistance having been officially, though I have reason to believe, only temporarily, suppressed, they are left unprotected.

The day before yesterday I had a long interview with the Vali, during which I remonstrated, in the strongest terms, against any violent and unconstitutional procedure in this matter. He assured me that, as regards M. Ghynossian, he was imprisoned simply and solely for contempt of Court, and that, as he was an eye-witness of the disturbance, he was summoned to give the names of those whom he had identified among the rioters. I stated my firm conviction that M. Ghynossian was incapable of the act imputed to him; to which he replied that he had his doubts on the subject. He went on to say that it was his wish to confine the prosecution to as small limits as possible, but that owing to Armenian intrigue more significance was being given to the affair than he had ever had in his mind to assign; that he had, in the first instance, proposed to the Bishop and the Notables to inquire into the case themselves, but that the proposition had not been entertained, and that therefore the responsibility for any unpleasantness that may have ensued rested entirely with them; and much more to the same purpose. As for Antronik Effendi, he said there was some discrepancy between his statements and those of one of the witnesses called, and that until that was cleared up he must remain in prison. The discrepancy in point, I can assure your Excellency from personal perusal of the evidence, is so slight that it may almost be said not to exist, turning as it does wholly on what one of the witnesses thought was the case, but of which he was not at all sure, as he repeatedly affirmed to the Mustantik, and it was only after continual pressing that he made the statement which gave rise to it. I have gone somewhat minutely into detail on this question of the charges brought against these men, because the matter so far has caused considerable excitement in the town, and is, in fact, the one theme of conversation.

That the Vali's object in imprisoning these two men in particular is to give a significance to the riot which it does not deserve, cannot be doubted for a moment. That such a line of action is unwise, both Mr. Chermside, when here, and myself have repeatedly assured him, but hitherto, unfortunately, without much result. I have heard, on the very best authority, that immediately after the occurrence, in the telegram which he dispatched to the Grand Vizier, he asserted that the whole affair had been arranged by the Bishop and Armenian Notables, at the same time asking for the dismissal of the former, as an intriguing and dangerous man, both of which epithets, I need hardly say, are entirely unmerited.

The Bishop has behaved throughout with spirit, repelling with dignity any charges brought against him. He is almost universally popular, and bears a very high character for abstemiousness and rectitude of purpose. I say almost advisedly, because I am informed there is a small faction among the Armenian community who object to him on the score of his timidity and backwardness in advancing their interests and in protecting them from the Turkish oppressor, as they term the Moslem. That there is very slight ground for these complaints I have every reason to believe, both from personal experience and from what I learn from the better-informed among his co-religionists.

The Vali's conduct in thus attempting to attach blame to men who were in no way implicated in this unfortunate affair is, to say the least of it, unwise, and is aggravating what he affirms he is striving to restrict to the smallest proportions. There is no doubt that this line of action, and the appearance of sundry articles in the local newspaper, which is entirely under his direction, calculated to excite ill-feeling between the Moslems and Christians, have done considerable harm everywhere, and that if pursued in, will not impossibly lead to the gravest results.

It may interest your Excellency to learn that the Public Prosecutor of Sivas has just been dismissed, being ordered to Erzeroum. The news has caused great satisfaction in all quarters, he being, by reputation, the most corrupt official in the vilayet. He is a first-rate lawyer; which fact, when it is borne in mind that the judicial staff here is intensely ignorant and incapable, coupled with the vast power which his position as Public Prosecutor gives him, have combined to make him all-powerful in the Courts. In fact, I do not think it would be any exaggeration to say that no single decision, involving interests of any importance, is given in any one of the Courts without his sanction, expressed or understood. Enjoying, as he, or indeed any man in his position, does, every opportunity for taking bribes, it need not be said that he has never failed to avail himself of them, and, in consequence, at present enjoys the unenviable position of being publicly reputed to be the greatest "bribe-eater" in the province. His successor, a certain Mehmed Effendi, from Castambol, was formerly President of the Commercial Court here, and has the reputation of being a well-educated man, but as to his qualifications for the important post of Public Prosecutor, beyond the fact that he is a brother of Fehmi Bey's, the Minister of the Civil List, I am not informed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. RICHARDS.

No. 217.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 664.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Lieutenant Bennet, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, which describes the state of utter disorganization existing in that vilayet, and suggests the immediate appointment of a Governor to replace Zia Pasha, who died some months ago.

I shall take the first opportunity of bringing these facts to the notice of the Ottoman Prime Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 10. Political.)
Sir, *Adana, November* 20, 1880.

SINCE the death of Zia Pasha last May this vilayet has been without a Vali. I have only been here a few days, but I have heard quite enough during that time to justify my writing to your Excellency on the chance of successful representations being made to the Porte to appoint a successor.

The Acting Vali, Hadji Akif Effendi, though well spoken of, evidently lacks both the power of authority and the interest in current affairs which are necessary for the welfare of the district, nor is this to be wondered at in a man who only holds office from day to day.

Corruption reigns supreme in all the Law Courts except the Commercial Court. Presidents and members, irrespective of creed, Mutaiu-mum (Prosécuteur-Général), and all the zaptiehs—all are reported corrupt, and the common cry is that there is no justice except such as can be bought. Interminable delay, an utter want of system, confusion, and inefficiency are the chief characteristics of the Law Courts, and in the sandjaks I hear that matters are worse.

A newly-appointed Mufettish (Inspector) arrived this week, and perhaps matters may mend a little; certainly if talk goes for anything there ought shortly to be an alteration; the new man is an Armenian, educated in Europe, and lately filled a similar post at Janina.

Public works have suffered also; there is a little going on in the Kulek Boghaz, but the construction of this important outlet for the Nigdeh and Kaisarieh districts will take many years to complete at the present rate. I have also heard on the best authority that the road from here to Mersina will become impracticable for wheeled traffic when the rains set in, unless immediate repairs are executed. Special employés from Constantinople sent to collect the tithes are reported to have succeeded in collecting 4,450,000 piastres worth instead of 10,000,000, and even that amount will be still further diminished at the hands of the storekeepers!

The Kaïmakam of Mersina, who a short time ago was dismissed for corruption and made to restore 50 per cent. in some cases, has been reinstated after a visit to Constantinople.

Public safety is at a low ebb, and brigandage is said to be on the increase, and it seems impossible to bring robbers to justice.

It is currently reported that Hadji Akif Effendi, or I suppose any one else, can have the appointment of Vali for £ T. 2,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 218.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 671.) *Constantinople, December* 15, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Henderson respecting Russian intrigues with regard to the suppression of the Catholicos of Sis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 218.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Goschen.

Aleppo, November 18, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd August last, I am informed that several Armenians have been actively engaged in a movement having for its object the suppression of the Catholicate of Sis and the extension of the spiritual jurisdiction of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin to Cilicia.

I have gone into this question in my despatch No. 50 of 1879, and I confine myself in this despatch to the connection of Russian agents with this movement.

About eighteen months ago a Russian officer was attached to the Russian Consulate here as Consular Secretary. It soon, however, began to be remarked that his official title was scarcely an appropriate one.

During the winter and spring he travelled all over the country, carefully mapping it, and he has only lately returned from the Taurus Mountains, after having made a very exact survey of them. A person, in whom I have confidence, informed me that he had accidentally seen some of the maps, which seemed to be very exact. It was

immediately after his visit to Antioch, Marash, Zeitoun, and other parts of the country that the movement for the suppression of the Catholicate of Sis was begun.

In Aleppo the movement is supported by the Armenians, who are on bad terms with the Catholicos, and others under the protection of the Russian Consulate. I have been told that the Russian Consul has been very active in instigating and supporting the movement. In conversation with me some time ago he told me that, in virtue of the pretension of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin to spiritual jurisdiction over the whole Armenian Church, Russia claimed a protectorate over the Armenian subjects of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 219.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 673.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a private letter from the Armenian Patriarch to Mr. Goschen respecting the recent disturbances at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Monseigneur Nercès to Mr. Goschen.

(Particulière.)

Excellence, *Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le 27 Novembre,* 1880.

J'AI eu l'honneur de transmettre précédemment à votre Excellence des suppliques et mazbatas provenant du Vilayet de Sivas et portant les signatures de plusieurs Notables, Musulmans et Chrétiens, religieux et civils, par lesquels les signataires exposaient qu'un soir pendant qu'une foule de monde s'était attroupée devant la maison du Vali, pour y porter plaintes d'un meurtre commis sur la personne d'un négociant Arménien, quelques coups de pierres, lancées par des inconnus avaient brisé quelques vitres de la maison du Vali, et que le Vali, au lieu de juger ce fait dans sa simplicité et chercher les coupables, tenté qu'il était par la méchanceté de Mehmed Ali, avait voulu rapporter ce fait à la Sublime Porte comme ayant eu lieu sous l'instigation de la prélature Arménienne et de sa communauté.

Je viens de recevoir aujourd'hui, Excellence, une dépêche en date du 25 courant, par laquelle les Présidents et les Secrétaires des deux Conseils, religieux et administratif, de la communauté Arménienne du dit vilayet informent le Patriarcat que le Vali, toujours persévérant dans ses vues déshonorantes pour la communauté, joue le rôle d'accusateur, que les Juges et les membres du Medjliss sont influencés par lui, et que sans procéder à une enquête et décréter l'affaire au Tribunal compétent, le Vali a arbitrairement emprisonné avec quelques membres le Président du Conseil Communal, et qui est plus étonnant et fâcheux, des écoliers adolescents ont été enlevés pendant la classe et avec surprise et conduits à la prison au nombre de vingt-cinq, où ils sont enfermés depuis huit jours. La dépêche conclut qu'il n'y a aucune sécurité et que la situation devient de jour en jour plus dangereuse, et elle implore l'intervention du Patriarcat pour la délivrance des prisonniers et la mise du pays sous la disposition d'un autre Vali.

Excellence, dès le premier jour de l'arrivée de Hakki Pasha à Sivas comme Gouverneur-Général, les Notables Musulmans et Chrétiens de ce vilayet n'ont jamais cessé de se plaindre de la mauvaise administration de Hakki Pasha. Ce Vali, faible et incapable qu'il est pour diriger son poste, avait complètement confié les rênes de son Gouvernement dans les mains impies de Mehmed Ali et de ces semblables, lesquels sont devenus par leur tyrannie depuis tant d'années l'horreur de la population. Aussi le Patriarcat, par un triste pressentiment, s'attendant toujours à des inconvénients propres à prendre de fâcheuses tournures dans ce vilayet, s'était-il empressé de s'adresser à la

Sublime Porte et de demander satisfaction aux suppliques et mazbatas des Notables Musulmans, qui imploraient le changement de ce Vali, et dont j'ai eu toujours soin de transmettre les copies à votre Excellence. Mais la Sublime Porte faisait toujours la sourde oreille, et intriguée par Hakki Pasha, qui agissait sous l'instigation de Mehmed Ali, elle persistait au contraire à demander au Patriarcat la destitution de l'Archevêque Arménien de ce vilayet, jusqu'à ce que les affaires ont pris les proportions que la dépêche précitée présente.

Dans une telle situation, tout en s'adressant à la Sublime Porte, je prends la liberté d'implorer la haute intervention de votre Excellence pour la mise en liberté des prisonniers, Présidents et membres des Conseils Communaux, parmi lesquels se trouvent des écoliers adolescents, se souciant peu des affaires politiques de ce monde.

Je vous, &c.
(Signé) NERCÈS.

No. 220.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, December* 31.)

(No. 43. Political.)

Van, November 16, 1880.

Sir,

YESTERDAY a deputation of the Armenians of Van waited upon me and presented me with a paper followed by upwards of 900 signatures, of which I now inclose a translation.

I am compelled to say that I entirely indorse what is stated in this paper. The so-called reform of the formation of communes and appointment of Mudirs is a perfect farce. Armenians who have been associated with Turkish employés in the arrangement of the new communes have come to me and said that the most flagrant miscalculations of the relative numbers of Christians and Moslems had been made; that they had protested, but were not listened to, and in some cases had refused to sign the Reports of proceedings. The various local Medjlisses had in several instances been forced by threats to sign. Moreover, the Mudirs chosen are always such as will be likely to be the tools of the Government. In the case mentioned in my despatch No. 38, Political, of the 26th October, 1880, although the Vali promised me to look into the matter, nothing has been done, and he sent for the men who came to me, abused them for having brought their case to my notice, and sent them off home at once, threatening to imprison them if they remained here.

Fresh reports continue to come in almost daily of Kurdish pillage, but the authorities do absolutely nothing to prevent it.

As regards the question of bearing arms, I have been informed by several different persons that on his recent tour the Vali distributed arms to the Kurds, ostensibly to enable them to protect themselves against pillage, and there seems no room to doubt that he did so. Unquestionably the Turkish authorities have had their suspicions aroused as to the existence of disaffection among the Armenians tending towards revolt, and are taking what they consider desirable precautions, but it is their own misgovernment that has produced this disaffection.

I desire once more to express most emphatically my opinion, that no real reform is practicable without effective European control. Promises may be given by the Sultan and his Ministers, and orders may even be sent to the provinces, but it will not be intended that they should be carried out in such a way as to produce any tangible result, and the local officials will have a thousand ways of arriving at the desired end, viz., that they should be a dead letter.

The Vali started last week on a fresh tour to appoint Mudirs in the districts immediately round Van, but has only as yet got as far as a village about a couple of miles from the town. It is said there was a somewhat stormy scene at the Government offices a day or two previously, the troops and minor Government employés clamouring for money, and that the Vali started suddenly on his tour, not desiring to face the dissatisfaction at Kurban Bairam.

I promised the Armenian deputation to forward a translation of their paper to you, and begged them to use their influence with the people to encourage them and calm their excitement, as the European Powers are earnestly engaged in the endeavour

to obtain an amelioration of their condition, and they ought at least to await the result of their efforts, and not to compromise the hoped-for end by rash action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Letter addressed to Captain Clayton by the Armenians of Van.

(Translation.)

Van, November 14, 1880.

Sir,

FOR five long centuries the Armenian population of Vasbouragan, suffering from heavy oppressions under the Turkish rule, has succeeded in maintaining its existence miraculously until this time, when the Divine Providence at last began to pity us and sent you here, who represent Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria of Great Britain. It is a great favour, indeed, that England rendered to Armenia, by which she gives the Turks to understand that she has the intention and really desires to protect the Armenians from oppression and injustice and to ameliorate their pitiful condition. We therefore are much obliged to the magnanimous English nation, and our hearts are always filled with sentiments of gratitude, and we beg you to be kind enough to express our thanks to Her Majesty's Government for the high protection and sympathy England intends to grant to Armenia.

Fifteen months have already elapsed, Sir, since you have set your foot in this country, when our hearts were consoled and we forgot all the oppressions, sufferings, and pains of the past time, and hoped that our miserable condition would very soon be ameliorated. But you will testify yourself that not a single improvement has taken place during this precious time, and our condition has become worse than before, so that we are driven to despair, for:

In the first place we see that the Turkish Government, on the pretext of carrying out the reforms promised by the Porte, is becoming more oppressive, and is trying to deprive the Armenians of their rights which they have enjoyed for so many centuries. For instance, the peasantry have had hitherto the right to choose their Headman, and if they found him unfit for his office they could dismiss him and put another one in his place. But now the Government, pretending to ameliorate the sad condition of the peasantry, is appointing Mudirs to the Armenian villages without asking the people whom they wish to have as their Headman. Besides, the persons who are appointed Mudirs are generally very unpopular, and not of much use for the people.

Secondly, we are very sorry to see that ignorant, corrupt, and fanatic Turks and Kurds, who are the chief oppressors and the sworn enemies of the Armenians, not only continue in their offices, but also in their oppressive conduct, and that when, on account of the Consular interference, they are dismissed, after some time they are reappointed to the same office. And it is a matter of fact that the most important offices in the country are confided to them in order to oppress and impoverish the Armenians. And one can easily imagine what terrible intrigues they carry on.

Thirdly, we are quite at a loss what to say when we see that our Vali telegraphs to the Porte to the effect that the condition of our country is satisfactory, and that crimes, such as outrages, murders, and robberies, are not committed by the Kurds, while, as you know perfectly well, not a single day elapses without new crimes which the rapacious Kurds are continually committing in the whole country.

Fourthly, we see with much regret that the local authorities no longer take our protests into consideration; on the contrary, they try openly and in secret to stifle our voice which we raised up to Europe against our oppressors, against the injustice and violence that we are still obliged to endure. We beg your attention, Sir, to this, for which purpose especially we present to you this statement. The abuses of the authorities, the misconduct of the officials, the oppressions of the gendarmes and the Imperial troops, which are usual things for the Turks, they altogether try to conceal. This means to say that they wish that the Armenian population of Vasbouragan should be left buried in its present extremely bad condition. For this purpose telegrams and letters are kept back, and whenever our oppressed brethren come to you in order to find some remedy for their hopeless condition the Government threatens to put them in prison, and they are sent off without getting any satisfaction for their complaints.

In the fifth place, our hearts are filled with doubts when we see that the Local

Government, instead of respecting the natural right of Armenians to defend themselves against thieves and robbers who are boldly going round about the country stripping the people on the road and plundering the villages, is arresting those Armenians who are obliged to take arms with them for self-defence when they are travelling in the villages, because a complete anarchy is prevailing in the country, and the authorities have neither the intention nor the means to protect them from being robbed and killed. Thus, while the rapacious Kurds, who are much esteemed by the Turks, have the privilege not only to ramble armed, but to plunder and ruin the country, the Armenians are not allowed to have the most necessary means to maintain their existence; and while our Vali distributes to the Kurds the best rifles called "Martini," the Armenians have no right even to buy a revolver.

Having before our eyes all these cases, we are obliged to sign and present to you this memorandum, in hopes that you will kindly take into consideration our deplorable and dangerous condition. We beg also, Sir, your attention to all those unsatisfactory, incomplete, and deceitful means by which the Turkish Government is now trying to improve the condition of the country. But we are sure that by your philanthropic efforts the truth will disclosed and justice will finally have the victory, tyranny will soon come to an end, and the Armenians will then be grateful to England and united Europe for their deliverance from oppressions and violence.

(Signed by 940 Armenians of Van.)

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